Frommer's® PORTABLE

Paris 2009

VISIT…

Useful French Words & Phrases

English	*French*	*Pronunciation*
Yes/No	**Oui/Non**	wee/noh
Okay	**D'accord**	*dah*-core
Please	**S'il vous plaît**	seel voo *play*
Thank you	**Merci**	*mair*-see
You're welcome	**De rien**	duh ree-*ehn*
Hello (during daylight)	**Bonjour**	bohn-*jhoor*
Good evening	**Bonsoir**	bohn-*swahr*
Goodbye	**Au revoir**	o ruh-*vwahr*
What's your name?	**Comment vous appellez-vous?**	kuh-*mahn* voo za-pell-ay-voo?
My name is	**Je m'appelle**	jhuh ma-pell
How are you?	**Comment allez-vous?**	kuh-*mahn* tahl-ay-voo?
I'm sorry/excuse me	**Pardon**	pahr-*dohn*

GETTING AROUND & STREET SMARTS

Do you speak English?	**Parlez-vous anglais?**	par-lay-voo zahn-*glay*?
I don't speak French	**Je ne parle pas français**	jhuh ne parl pah frahn-*say*
I don't understand	**Je ne comprends pas**	jhuh ne kohm-*prahn* pas
What is it?	**Qu'est-ce que c'est?**	kess kuh *say*?
What time is it?	**Qu'elle heure est-il?**	kel uhr eh-*teel*?
What?	**Quoi?**	kwah?
How? or What did you say?	**Comment?**	ko-*mahn*?
When?	**Quand?**	kahn?
Where is?	**Où est?**	ooh eh?
Who?	**Qui?**	kee?
Why?	**Pourquoi?**	poor-*kwah*?
here/there	**ici/là**	ee-*see*/lah
left/right	**à gauche/à droite**	a goash/a drwaht
airport	**l'aéroport**	lair-o-*por*
bus station	**la gare routière**	lah gar roo-tee-*air*
bus stop	**l'arrêt de bus**	lah-*ray* duh boohss
church	**église**	ay-*gleez*
museum	**le musée**	luh mew-*zay*
one-way ticket	**aller simple**	ah-*lay sam*-pluh
round-trip ticket	**aller-retour**	ah-*lay* re-*toor*
store	**le magasin**	luh ma-ga-*zehn*
street	**rue**	roo
subway	**le métro**	le *máy*-tro
ticket	**un billet**	uh bee-*yay*
toilets	**les toilettes/les WC**	lay twa-*lets*/les vay-*say*

Frommer's®

PORTABLE

Paris

2009

by Darwin Porter & Danforth Prince

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—Glamour Magazine

Wiley Publishing, Inc.

Published by:

WILEY PUBLISHING, INC.
111 River St.
Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774

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ISBN 978-0-470-28783-5

Editor: Jennifer Polland
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Production by Wiley Indianapolis Composition Services

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Manufactured in the United States of America

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Contents

List of Maps v

1 Planning Your Trip to Paris 1

1 Visitor Information 1
2 Entry Requirements 4
3 When to Go 7
4 Money & Costs 8
5 Packages for the Independent Traveler 11
6 Escorted General-Interest Tours 12
7 Getting There 13
Under the Channel 15
8 Arrondissements in Brief 16
9 Getting Around 22

2 Where to Stay 28

1 On the Right Bank 28
2 On the Left Bank 43

3 Where to Dine 55

1 Food for Thought 55
Dining Savoir-Faire 56
2 On the Right Bank 58
3 On the Left Bank 79
4 The Top Cafes 89

4 Exploring Paris 94

1 The Top Attractions: From the Arc de Triomphe to the Tour Eiffel 94
2 The Major Museums 110
3 The Major Churches 118
4 Architectural & Historic Highlights 120
5 Parks & Gardens 124

6 Cemeteries 125
7 Paris Underground 128
8 Neighborhood Highlights 129
9 Organized Tours 134

5 Shopping in Paris 138

1 The Shopping Scene 138
2 Shopping A to Z 141
Food Markets 149

6 Paris After Dark 154

1 The Performing Arts 154
2 The Club & Music Scene 157
3 Bars, Pubs & Clubs 164
4 Gay & Lesbian Bars & Clubs 167

Appendix: Paris Fast Facts 169

Index 175

General Index 175
Accommodations Index 180
Restaurant Index 180

List of Maps

Paris at a Glance 2

Hotels in the Heart of the Right Bank 30

Hotels near the Champs-Elysées 41

Hotels in the Heart of the Left Bank 44

Hotels near the Eiffel Tower 51

Restaurants in the Heart of the Right Bank 60

Restaurants in the Heart of the Left Bank 80

Top Paris Attractions 96

Notre-Dame de Paris 99

The Louvre 105

Père-Lachaise Cemetery 127

Ile de la Cité and Ile St-Louis 131

About the Authors

As a team of veteran travel writers, **Darwin Porter** and **Danforth Prince** have produced titles for Frommer's including guides to Italy, France, the Caribbean, England, and Germany. A film critic, columnist, and broadcaster, Porter is also a Hollywood biographer. Recent releases by Darwin include *Brando Unzipped,* documenting the private life of Marlon Brando, and *Jacko: His Rise and Fall,* the first complete biography ever written on the tumultuous life of Michael Jackson. Prince was formerly employed by the Paris bureau of the New York Times and is today the president of www.BloodMoonProductions.com and other media-related firms. Porter and Prince's latest non-travel-related venture, jointly co-authored and published in 2008 by Blood Moon, is *Hollywood Babylon—It's Back!,* which one critic described as the hottest compilation of inter-generational scandal in the history of Hollywood.

An Invitation to the Reader

In researching this book, we discovered many wonderful places—hotels, restaurants, shops, and more. We're sure you'll find others. Please tell us about them, so we can share the information with your fellow travelers in upcoming editions. If you were disappointed with a recommendation, we'd love to know that, too. Please write to:

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Wiley Publishing, Inc. • 111 River St. • Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774

An Additional Note

Please be advised that travel information is subject to change at any time—and this is especially true of prices. We therefore suggest that you write or call ahead for confirmation when making your travel plans. The authors, editors, and publisher cannot be held responsible for the experiences of readers while traveling. Your safety is important to us, however, so we encourage you to stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. Keep a close eye on cameras, purses, and wallets, all favorite targets of thieves and pickpockets.

Frommer's Star Ratings, Icons & Abbreviations

Every hotel, restaurant, and attraction listing in this guide has been ranked for quality, value, service, amenities, and special features using a **star-rating system.** In country, state, and regional guides, we also rate towns and regions to help you narrow down your choices and budget your time accordingly. Hotels and restaurants are rated on a scale of zero (recommended) to three stars (exceptional). Attractions, shopping, nightlife, towns, and regions are rated according to the following scale: zero stars (recommended), one star (highly recommended), two stars (very highly recommended), and three stars (must-see).

In addition to the star-rating system, we also use **seven feature icons** that point you to the great deals, in-the-know advice, and unique experiences that separate travelers from tourists. Throughout the book, look for:

Finds	Special finds—those places only insiders know about
Fun Fact	Fun facts—details that make travelers more informed and their trips more fun
Kids	Best bets for kids and advice for the whole family
Moments	Special moments—those experiences that memories are made of
Overrated	Places or experiences not worth your time or money
Tips	Insider tips—great ways to save time and money
Value	Great values—where to get the best deals

The following **abbreviations** are used for credit cards:

AE	American Express	DISC	Discover	V	Visa
DC	Diners Club	MC	MasterCard		

Frommers.com

Now that you have this guidebook to help you plan a great trip, visit our website at **www.frommers.com** for additional travel information on more than 4,000 destinations. We update features regularly to give you instant access to the most current trip-planning information available. At Frommers.com, you'll find scoops on the best airfares, lodging rates, and car rental bargains. You can even book your travel online through our reliable travel booking partners. Other popular features include:

- Online updates of our most popular guidebooks
- Vacation sweepstakes and contest giveaways
- Newsletters highlighting the hottest travel trends
- Podcasts, interactive maps, and up-to-the-minute events listings
- Opinionated blog entries by Arthur Frommer himself
- Online travel message boards with featured travel discussions

1 Planning Your Trip to Paris

Flying into France, if your documents are in order, is one of the most effortless undertakings in global travel. There are no shots to get, no particular safety precautions, no unusual aspects of planning a trip. With your passport, airline ticket, and enough money, you just go. In general, if you're not bringing any illegal items into France, Customs officials are courteous and will speed you on your way into their country.

Of course, before you lift off the ground in your native country, you can do some advance preparation, as will be detailed in this chapter. That could mean checking to see if your passport is up to date (or obtaining one if you don't already possess one) or taking care of health needs before you go, including medication. In the case of Paris, you might want to make reservations at some highly acclaimed restaurants or even buy tickets in advance to certain performances.

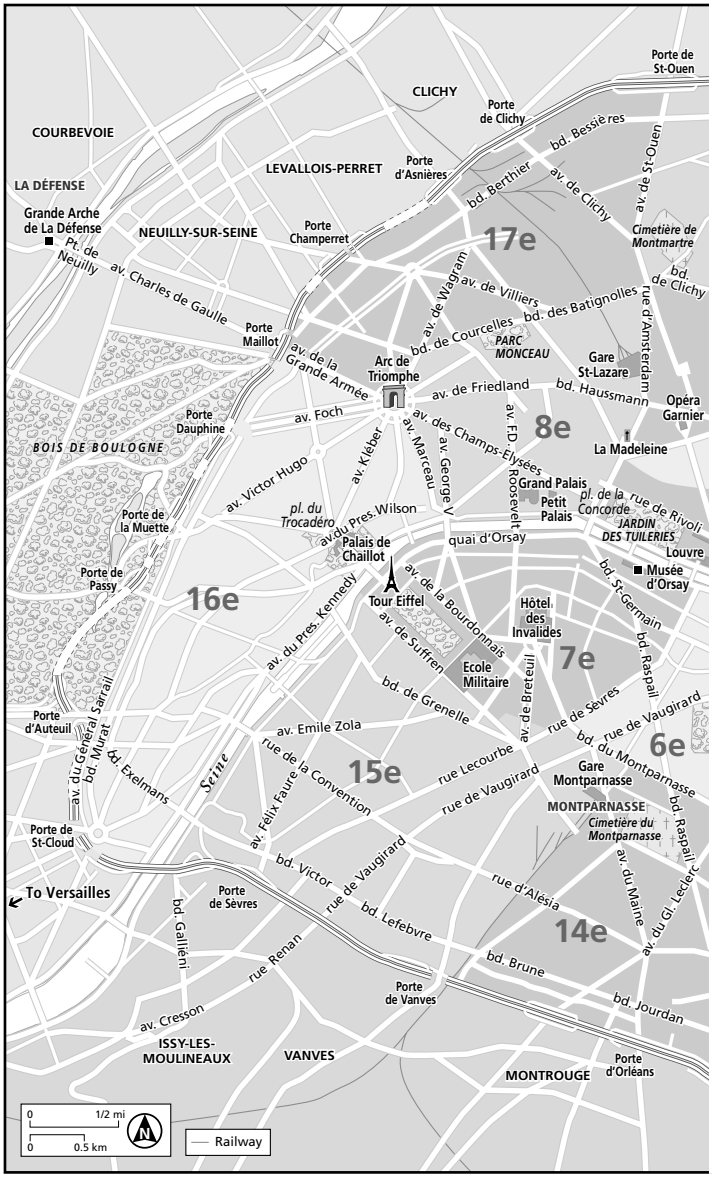
In the pages that follow, you'll find everything you need to know about the practicalities of planning your trip in advance: finding the best airfare, deciding when to go, figuring out the euro, and more.

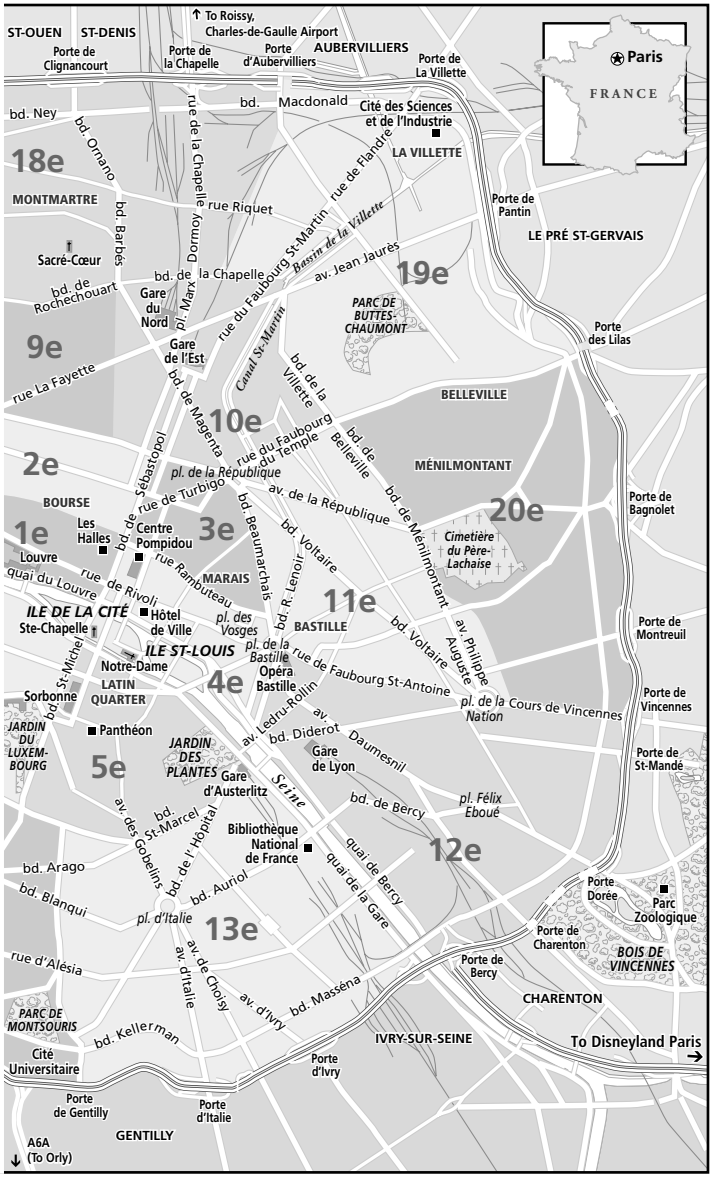
1 Visitor Information

Before you go, your best source of information is the **French Government Tourist Office** (www.franceguide.com), which can be reached at the following addresses:

- **United States:** 825 Third Ave., 29th floor, New York, NY 10022 (✆ **514/288-1904**); 205 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60601 (✆ **514/288-1904**); or 9454 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 715, Beverly Hills, CA 90212 (✆ **514/288-1904**).
- **Canada:** 1800 av. McGill College, Suite 490, Montreal, QC H3A 2W9 (✆ **514/288-2026;** fax 514/845-4868).
- **United Kingdom:** 178 Piccadilly, London W1J 9AL (✆ **09068/244-123** [60p per min.]; fax 020/7493-6594).
- **Australia:** 25 Blight St., Sydney, NSW 2000 (✆ **02/9231-5244;** fax 02/9221-8682).

Paris at a Glance

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ST-DENIS
Porte de Clignancourt
To Roissy, Charles-de-Gaulle Airport
Porte de la Chapelle
Porte d'Aubervilliers
AUBERVILLIERS
Porte de La Villette
Paris
FRANCE
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bd. Ornano
bd. Macdonald
Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie
LA VILLETTE
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rue de Flandre
18e
MONTMARTRE
bd. Barbès
rue Riquet
Porte de Pantin
LE PRÉ ST-GERVAIS
Sacré-Cœur
bd. de la Chapelle
Barrière de la Villette
av. Jean Jaurès
19e
bd. de Rochechouart
Gare du Nord
pl. Marx Dormoy
rue du Faubourg St-Martin
PARC DE BUTTES-CHAUMONT
Porte des Lilas
9e
Gare de l'Est
Canal St-Martin
bd. de la Villette
rue La Fayette
bd. de Magenta
BELLEVILLE
10e
rue du Faubourg du Temple
bd. de Belleville
2e
pl. de la République
MÉNILMONTANT
rue de Turbigo
av. de la République
bd. de Ménilmontant
Porte de Bagnolet
BOURSE
bd. de Sébastopol
bd. Beaumarchais
20e
1e
Les Halles
Centre Pompidou
3e
bd. Voltaire
Cimetière du Père-Lachaise
Louvre
rue de Rambuteau
quai du Louvre
rue de Rivoli
MARAIS
bd. R. Lenoir
11e
ILE DE LA CITÉ
Hôtel de Ville
pl. des Vosges
BASTILLE
bd. Voltaire
av. Philippe Auguste
Porte de Montreuil
Ste-Chapelle
ILE ST-LOUIS
pl. de la Bastille
Opéra Bastille
rue de Faubourg St-Antoine
bd. St-Michel
Notre-Dame
LATIN QUARTER
4e
Sorbonne
pl. de la Cours de Vincennes Nation
Porte de Vincennes
av. Ledru-Rollin
av. Daumesnil
JARDIN DU LUXEMBOURG
Panthéon
bd. Diderot
JARDIN DES PLANTES
Gare de Lyon
Porte de St-Mandé
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Gare d'Austerlitz
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bd. de Bercy
pl. Félix Eboué
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rue d'Alésia
av. de Choisy
av. d'Italie
av. d'Ivry
bd. Masséna
Porte de Bercy
BOIS DE VINCENNES
CHARENTON
PARC DE MONTSOURIS
bd. Kellerman
IVRY-SUR-SEINE
To Disneyland Paris
Cité Universitaire
Porte d'Ivry
Porte de Gentilly
Porte d'Italie
GENTILLY
A6A (To Orly)

Although AAA has road maps of France, the best are ***cartes routiéres*** (road maps) published by Michelin. Both map books and fold-outs are available at almost any large bookstore in Paris and are sometimes available at news kiosks. These outlets also sell detailed street maps of Paris. The Michelin maps offer alternative ***routes de degagement,*** which you can travel to skirt big cities and avoid traffic-clogged highways. We recommend the *France Tourist and Motoring Atlas* (No 20197).

The **Paris Convention and Visitors Bureau** (✆ **08-92-68-30-00;** .35€ [50¢] per minute; www.paris-info.com) has offices throughout the city, with the main headquarters at 25–27 rue des Pyramides, 1er (Métro: Pyramides). It's open Monday to Saturday 10am to 7pm (June–Oct from 9am), Sunday and holidays from 11am to 7pm. Less comprehensive branch offices include Clémenceau Welcome Center, at the corner of av. Champs-Elysées and av. Marigny 8e; (Métro: Champs-Elysées), open April 6 to October 20 daily 9am to 7pm. **Espace Tourisme Ile-de-France** has branches in the Carrousel du Louvre, 99 rue de Rivoli, 1er (Métro: Palais-Royal–Louvre), open daily 10am to 6pm; in the **Gare de Lyon,** 20 bd. Diderot, 12e (Métro: Gare de Lyon), open Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm; in the **Gare du Nord,** 18 rue de Dunkerque, 10e (Métro: Gare du Nord), open daily 8am to 6pm; and in **Montmartre,** 21 place du Tertre, 18e (Métro: Abbesses or Lamarck–Caulaincourt), open daily 10am to 7pm.

WEBSITES

The French Government Tourist Office's home on the Internet is at **www.franceguide.com** or **www.francetourism.com**. The website of the Paris Convention and Visitors Bureau, at **www.paris-touristoffice.com** or **www.parisinfo.com**, provides information on hotels, restaurants, attractions, entertainment, and events.

2 Entry Requirements

PASSPORTS

For information on how to get a passport, go to "Passports" in the Appendix—the websites listed provide downloadable passport applications as well as the current fees for processing passport applications. For an up-to-date, country-by-country listing of passport requirements around the world, go to the "Foreign Entry Requirement" Web page of the U.S. State Department at **www.travel.state.gov**.

It's always wise to have plenty of documentation when traveling with children. For changing details on entry requirements for children traveling abroad, keep up-to-date by going to the U.S. State Department website: http://travel.state.gov/foreignentryreqs.html.

Children of all ages (from birth up) require a passport. Visit **www.travel.state.gov** for a downloadable application; children ages 14 to 17 follow the same rules for a first-time passport applicant (see **www.travel.state.gov**).

To prevent international child abduction, E.U. governments have initiated procedures at entry and exit points. These often (but not always) include requiring documentary evidence of relationship and permission for the child's travel from the parent or legal guardian not present. Having such documentation on hand, even if not required, facilitates entries and exits. All children must have their own passport. To obtain a passport, the child *must* be present at the center issuing the passport. Both parents must be present as well. If not, then a notarized statement from the parents is required.

Any questions parents or guardians might have can be answered by calling the **National Passport Information Center** at ✆ **877/487-6868** Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm Eastern Standard Time.

CUSTOMS

What You Can Bring into France: Customs restrictions for visitors entering France differ for citizens of the European Union (E.U.) and of non-E.U. countries. Non-E.U. nationals can bring in either 200 cigarettes, 100 cigarillos, 50 cigars, or 250 grams of smoking tobacco, duty-free. This amount is doubled if you live outside Europe. You can also bring in 2 liters of wine and 1 liter of alcohol of more than 22%, or 2 liters of wine 22% or less. In addition, you can bring in 60cc of perfume, or a quarter liter of eau de toilette. Visitors ages 15 and older can bring in other goods totaling 175€ ($254); for those younger than 15, the limit is 90€ ($131). Customs officials tend to be lenient about general merchandise as the limits are very low. E.U. citizens can bring in any amount of goods as long as the goods are intended for their personal use and not for resale.

What You Can Take Home from France:

U.S. Citizens Returning U.S. citizens who have been away for 48 hours or more are allowed to bring back, once every 30 days, $800 worth of merchandise duty-free. You're charged a flat rate of duty on the next $1,000 worth of purchases, and any dollar amount beyond that is subject to duty at whatever rates apply. On mailed gifts, the

duty-free limit is $200. Have your receipts or purchases handy to expedite the declaration process. ***Note:*** If you owe duty, you are required to pay on your arrival into the United States, using cash, personal check, government or traveler's check, or money order; some locations also accept Visa or MasterCard.

To avoid having to pay duty on foreign-made personal items you owned before your trip, bring along a bill of sale, insurance policy, jeweler's appraisal, or receipt of purchase. Or you can register items that can be readily identified by a permanently affixed serial number or marking—think laptop computers, cameras, and CD players—with Customs before you leave. Take the items to the nearest Customs office, or register them with Customs at the airport from which you're departing. You'll receive, at no cost, a Certificate of Registration, which allows duty-free entry for the life of the item.

You cannot bring fresh foodstuffs into the U.S.; canned foods are allowed. For specifics on what you can bring back and the corresponding fees, download the invaluable free pamphlet *Know Before You Go* online at **www.cbp.gov**. (Click "Travel," and then click "Know Before You Go.") Or contact the **U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP),** 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20229 (✆ **877/287-8667**) for the pamphlet.

Canadian Citizens Canada allows its citizens a C$750 exemption, and you're allowed to bring back duty-free 1 carton of cigarettes, 1 can of tobacco, 40 imperial ounces of liquor, and 50 cigars. In addition, you're allowed to mail gifts to Canada from abroad valued at less than C$60 a day, provided they're unsolicited and don't contain alcohol or tobacco (write on the package UNSOLICITED GIFT, UNDER C$60 VALUE). All valuables, including serial numbers of valuables you already own, such as expensive foreign cameras, should be declared on the Y-38 form before departure from Canada. ***Note:*** The C$750 exemption can be used only once a year and only after an absence of 7 days.

For a clear summary of Canadian rules, write for the booklet *I Declare,* issued by the **Canada Border Services Agency** (✆ **800/461-9999** in Canada, or 204/983-3500; www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca).

U.K. Citizens Citizens of the U.K. returning from an E.U. country such as France go through a Customs exit (called the "Blue Exit") especially for E.U. travelers. In essence, there is no limit on what you can bring back from an E.U. country, as long as the items are for personal use (this includes gifts) and you have already paid the duty and tax. However, Customs law sets out guidance levels. If you bring in

more than these levels, you may be asked to prove that the goods are for your own use. Guidance levels on goods bought in the E.U. for your own use are 3,200 cigarettes, 200 cigars, 400 cigarillos, 3 kilograms of smoking tobacco, 10 liters of spirits, 90 liters of wine, 20 liters of fortified wine (such as port or sherry), and 110 liters of beer.

For information, contact **HM revenue Customs** at ✆ **0845/010-9000** (from outside the U.K., 02920/501-261), or consult their website at www.hmrc.gov.uk.

Australian Citizens The duty-free allowance in Australia is A$900 or, for those younger than 18, A$450. Citizens can bring in 250 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, and 2.25 liters of alcohol. If you're returning with valuables you already own, such as foreign-made cameras, you should file form B263.

A helpful brochure available from Australian consulates or Customs offices is *Know Before You Go.* For more information, call the **Australian Customs Service** at ✆ **1300/363-263,** or log on to www.customs.gov.au.

New Zealand Citizens The duty-free allowance for **New Zealand** is $700. Citizens 17 and older can bring in 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, or 250 grams of tobacco (or a mixture of all three if the combined weight doesn't exceed 250g), plus 4.5 liters of wine and beer, or 1.125 liters of liquor. New Zealand currency does not carry import or export restrictions. Fill out a certificate of export, listing the valuables you are taking out of the country; that way, you can bring them back without paying duty.

Most questions are answered in a free pamphlet available at New Zealand consulates and Customs offices: *New Zealand Customs Guide for Travellers, Notice no. 4.* For more information, contact **New Zealand Customs Service,** The Customhouse, 17–21 Whitmore St., Box 2218, Wellington (✆ **04/473-6099** or 0800/428-786; www.customs.govt.nz).

3 When to Go

The best time to visit Paris is in the spring (Apr–June) or fall (Sept–Nov), when things are easier to come by—from Métro seats to good-tempered waiters. The weather is temperate year-round. July and August are the worst for crowds. Parisians desert their city then.

Hotels used to charge off-season rates during the cold, rainy period from November through February; now, they're often packed with business travelers, trade fairs, and winter tour groups, and hoteliers have less incentive to offer discounts. Airfares are still cheaper

during these months, and more promotions are available. They rise in the spring and fall, peaking in the summer, when tickets cost the most.

In even-numbered years, don't come to Paris during the first 2 weeks of October without a confirmed hotel room. The weather's fine, but the city is jammed for the auto show.

4 Money & Costs

For decades Paris was known as one of the most expensive cities on earth. It still is a pricey destination, but London has not only caught up with Paris in prices but surpassed it. Because of the lower dollar value, New York appears to be a bargain to some visiting Parisians. Paris is not as expensive as Tokyo or Oslo, but even an average hotel can cost 140€ ($200) or more—in many cases, much, much more.

It's always advisable to bring money in a variety of forms on a vacation: a mix of cash, credit cards, and traveler's checks. You should also exchange enough petty cash to cover airport incidentals, tipping, and transportation to your hotel before you leave home, or withdraw money upon arrival at an airport ATM.

In many international destinations, ATMs offer the best exchange rates. Avoid exchanging money at commercial exchange bureaus and hotels, which often have the highest transaction fees.

Not just Paris, but all of France is a very expensive destination. To compensate, you can often find top-value food and lodging. Part of the cost is the value-added tax (VAT in English, TVA in French), which adds between 6% and 33% to everything.

Rental cars (and fuel) are expensive, and flying within France costs more than within the U.S. Train travel is relatively inexpensive, especially with a rail pass.

CURRENCY

The **euro,** the single European currency, became the official currency of France and 11 other participating countries on January 1, 1999. The euro didn't go into general circulation until January 1, 2002. The old currency, the French franc, disappeared into history on March 1, 2002, replaced by the euro, which is officially abbreviated "EUR" or €. Exchange rates of participating countries are locked into a common currency fluctuating against the dollar, and the difference could affect the relative costs of your trip. For up-to-the-minute currency conversions, go to **www.xe.com/ucc**.

Most banks in Paris are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 4:30pm, and a few are open Saturday; ask at your hotel for the

location of the one nearest you. Most post offices will convert currency, and exchanges are also available at Paris airports and train stations and along most of the major boulevards. They charge a small commission. Some exchange places charge favorable rates to lure you into their stores. For example, **Paris Vision,** 214 rue de Rivoli, 1er (✆ **01-42-60-31-25;** Métro: Tuileries), maintains a minibank in the back of a travel agency, open daily from 7am to 9pm. Its rates are only a fraction less favorable than those offered for large blocks of money as listed by the Paris stock exchange.

ATMs

The easiest and best way to get cash away from home is from an ATM, sometimes referred to as a "cash machine," or a "cashpoint." The **Cirrus** (✆ **800/424-7787;** www.mastercard.com) and **PLUS** (✆ **800/843-7587;** www.visa.com) networks span the globe; look at the back of your bank card to see which network you're on, and then call or check online for ATM locations at your destination. Be sure you know your personal identification number (PIN) and daily withdrawal limit before you depart.

ATMs are widely available in France, certainly in all cities and bigger towns, and even at a bank or two in smaller places. But don't always count on it. If you're venturing into rural France, it's always good to have euros in your pocket.

There are problems involved in the use of ATMs. For example, if you make a mistake and punch your secret code wrong into the machine three times, that machine will swallow your card on the assumption that it is being fraudulently used.

Users with alphabetical rather than numerical PINS may be thrown off by the lack of letters on French cash machines. If your PIN number is longer than four digits, check with your bank to see if you can use the first four digits or will have to get a new number for use in France.

To get a cash advance by using a credit card at an ATM machine, ask for a PIN from your credit card company such as Visa before leaving your home country.

Note: Remember that many banks impose a fee every time you use a card at another bank's ATM, and that fee can be higher for international transactions (up to $5 or more) than for domestic ones (where they're rarely more than $2). In addition, the bank from which you withdraw cash may charge its own fee. For international withdrawal fees, ask your bank.

CREDIT CARDS

Credit cards are another safe way to carry money, but their use has become more difficult, especially in France (see below). They also provide a convenient record of all your expenses, and they generally offer relatively good exchange rates. You can usually withdraw cash advances from your credit cards at banks or ATMs, provided you know your PIN. Keep in mind that you'll pay interest from the moment of your withdrawal, even if you pay your monthly bills on time. Also, note that many banks now assess a 1% to 3% "transaction fee" on **all** charges you incur abroad (whether you're using the local currency or your native currency).

There is almost no difference in the acceptance of a debit or a standard credit card.

Chip and PIN represent a change in the way that credit and debit cards are used. The program is designed to cut down on the fraudulent use of credit cards. More and more banks are issuing customers Chip and PIN versions of their debit or credit cards. In the future, more and more vendors will be asking for a four-digit personal identification or PIN number, which will be entered into a keypad near the cash register. In some cases, a waiter will bring a hand-held model to your table to verify your credit card.

Warning: Some establishments in France might not accept your credit card unless you have a computer chip imbedded in it. The reason? To cut down on credit card fraud. More and more places in

Major Change in Credit Cards

In the interim between traditional swipe credit cards and those with an embedded computer chip, heres what you can do to protect yourself:

- Get a 4-digit PIN number from your credit card's issuing bank before leaving home.
- Call the number on the back of each card and ask for a 4-digit PIN number.
- Keep an eye out for the right logo displayed in a retailer's window. You want Visa or MasterCard, not Maestro, Visa Electron, or Carte Bleue.
- Know that your Amex card will work where an Amex logo is displayed (but the card is not as widely accepted as Visa and MasterCard).
- As a last resort, make sure you have enough cash to cover your purchase.

France are moving from the magnetic strip credit card to the new system of "Chip and PIN." In the changeover in technology, some retailers have falsely concluded that they can no longer take swipe cards or signature cards that don't have PINs. For the time being, both the new and old cards are used in shops, hotels, and restaurants, regardless of whether they have the old credit and debit cards machines or the new Chip and PIN machines installed. Expect a lot of confusion.

TRAVELER'S CHECKS

You can buy traveler's checks at most banks, and they are widely accepted in France, although frankly, merchants prefer cash. Because of difficulties with credit cards (see above) or ATM machines that can reject your card for no apparent reason, travelers are once again buying traveler's checks for security in case something goes wrong with their plastic. They are offered in denominations of $20, $50, $100, $500, and sometimes $1,000. Generally, you'll pay a service charge ranging from 1% to 4%.

The most popular traveler's checks are offered by **American Express** (✆ **800/528-4800,** or 800/221-7282; www.americanexpress.com for cardholders—this number accepts collect calls, offers service in several foreign languages, and exempts Amex gold and platinum cardholders from the 1% fee); **Visa** (✆ **800/732-1322;** www.visa.com)—AAA members can obtain Visa checks for a $9.95 fee (for checks up to $1,500) at most AAA offices or by calling ✆ **866/339-3378;** and **MasterCard** (✆ **800/223-9920;** www.mastercard.com).

American Express, Thomas Cook, Visa, and **MasterCard** offer **foreign currency traveler's checks,** which are useful if you're traveling to one country, or to the euro zone; they're accepted at locations where dollar checks may not be.

If you carry traveler's checks, keep a record of their serial numbers separate from your checks in the event that they are stolen or lost—you'll get your refund faster.

5 Packages for the Independent Traveler

Package tours are simply a way to buy the airfare, accommodations, and other elements of your trip (such as car rentals, airport transfers, and sometimes even activities) at the same time and often at discounted prices.

One good source of package deals is the airlines themselves. Most major airlines offer air/land packages, including **American Airlines**

Vacations (✆ 800/321-2121; www.aavacations.com), **Delta Vacations** (✆ 800/654-6559; www.deltavacations.com), **Continental Airlines Vacations** (✆ 800/301-3800; www.covacations.com), and **United Vacations** (✆ 888/854-3899; www.unitedvacations.com). Several big **online travel agencies**—Expedia, Travelocity, Orbitz, Site59, and Lastminute.com—also do a brisk business in packages.

Franceway (www.franceway.com) puts together French packages, including airfares and government-rated three-star hotels from Paris to the Riviera. **Travel in France** (www.travel-in-france.com) is not a travel agency but helps you organize your own French package trip, featuring the best airfares on Air France. It also provides information on hotels in a range of prices. **FirstforFrance.com** can also help you put together a package vacation in France. The site maintains a Travel Centre in Paris where you can make bookings at hotels in a wide range of prices. All your arrangements can be made on the Web.

Travel packages are also listed in the travel section of your local Sunday newspaper. Or check ads in national travel magazines such as *Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel Magazine, Travel + Leisure, National Geographic Traveler,* and *Condé Nast Traveler.*

For more information on package tours and tips for booking your trip, see Frommers.com.

6 Escorted General-Interest Tours

Escorted tours are structured group tours, with a group leader. The price usually includes everything from airfare to hotels, meals, tours, admission costs, and local transportation.

The two largest operators conducting escorted tours of both Paris and scenic parts of France and Europe are **Globus + Cosmos Tours** (✆ **866/755-8581;** www.globusandcosmos.com) and **Trafalgar** (✆ **800/854-0103;** www.trafalgartours.com). Both have first-class tours that run about $300 a day and budget tours for about $100 a day. The differences are mainly in hotel location and the number of activities. There's little difference in the companies' services, so choose your tour based on the itinerary and date of departure. Brochures are available at travel agencies, and all tours must be booked through travel agents.

Tauck World Discovery, 10 Norden Pl., Norwalk, CT 06855 (✆ **800/788-7885;** www.tauck.com), provides first-class, escorted coach grand tours of both Paris and the countryside of France, as well as 1-week general tours of regions in France. Its 13-day tour

covering the Normandy landing beaches, the Bayeux tapestry, and Mont-St-Michel begins at $4,990 (£2,495) per person, double occupancy (land only); an 8-day trip beginning in Nice and ending in Paris starts at $2,990 (£1,495) per person.

For more information on package-escorted, general-interest tours, including questions to ask before booking a trip, see Frommers.com.

7 Getting There

BY PLANE

The two Paris airports—Orly (airport code: ORY) and Charles de Gaulle (airport code: CDG)—are about even in terms of convenience to the city's center, though taxi rides from Orly may take less time than those from de Gaulle. Orly, the older of the two, is 14km (8⅔ miles) south of the center; Charles de Gaulle is 22km (14 miles) northeast. Air France serves Charles de Gaulle (Terminal 2C) from North America. U.S. carriers land at both airports.

Most airlines charge their lowest fares between November 1 and March 13. Shoulder season (Oct and mid-Mar–mid-June) is a bit more expensive, though we think it's the ideal time to visit France.

GETTING THERE FROM ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE

BY PLANE

From London, **Air France** (✆ **0870/142-4343;** www.airfrance.com) and **British Airways** (✆ **0844/493-0787** in the U.K.; www.britishairways.com) fly frequently to Paris; the trip takes 1 hour. These airlines operate up to 17 flights daily from Heathrow. Many travelers also fly out of the London City Airport in the Docklands.

Direct flights to Paris operate from other U.K. cities such as Manchester and Edinburgh. Contact Air France, British Airways, or **British Midland** (✆ **0870/607-0555;** www.flybmi.com). Daily papers often carry ads for cheap flights. Highly recommended **Trailfinders** (✆ **0845/058-5858;** www.trailfinders.com) sells discount fares.

You can reach Paris from any major European capital. Your best bet is to fly on the national carrier, Air France, which has more connections into Paris from European capitals than any other airline. From Dublin, try **Aer Lingus** (✆ **800-IRISH-AIR;** www.aerlingus.com), which schedules the most flights to Paris from Ireland. From Amsterdam, try **NWA/KLM** (✆ **800/225-2525;** www.nwa.com).

BY TRAIN

Paris is one of Europe's busiest rail junctions, with trains arriving at and departing from its many stations every few minutes. If you're in Europe, you may want to go to Paris by train. The cost is relatively low—especially compared to renting a car.

Rail passes as well as individual rail tickets are available at most travel agencies or at any office of **Rail Europe** (✆ **888/382-7245** in the U.S.; www.raileurope.com) or **Eurostar** (✆ **800/EUROSTAR** in the U.S.; www.eurostar.com).

BY BUS

Bus travel to Paris is available from London as well as many cities on the Continent. In the early 1990s, the French government established incentives for long-haul buses not to drive into the center of Paris. The arrival and departure point for Europe's largest operator, **Eurolines France,** 28 av. du Général-de-Gaulle, 93541 Bagnolet (✆ **08-92-89-90-91;** www.eurolines.fr), is a 35-minute Métro ride from central Paris, at the terminus of line no. 3 (Métro: Gallieni), in the eastern suburb of Bagnolet. Despite this inconvenience, many people prefer bus travel.

Long-haul buses are equipped with toilets, and they stop at mealtimes for rest and refreshment.

Because Eurolines does not have a U.S. sales agent, most people buy their tickets in Europe. Any European travel agent can arrange the sale. If you're traveling to Paris from London, contact **Eurolines (U.K.) Ltd.,** 52 Grosvenor Gardens, Victoria, London SW1 0AU (✆ **0870/580-8080;** www.nationalexpress.com for information or credit card sales).

BY CAR

The major highways into Paris are A1 from the north (Great Britain and Benelux); A13 from Rouen, Normandy, and northwest France; A10 from Bordeaux, the Pyrénées, the southwest, and Spain; A6 from Lyon, the French Alps, the Riviera, and Italy; and A4 from Metz, Nancy, and Strasbourg in the east.

BY FERRY FROM ENGLAND

Ferries and hydrofoils operate day and night, with the exception of last-minute cancellations during storms. Many crossings are timed to coincide with the arrival and departure of trains (especially those between London and Paris). Trains let you off a short walk from the piers. Most ferries carry cars, trucks, and freight, but some hydrofoils take passengers only. The major routes include at least 12 trips a day between Dover or Folkestone and Calais or Boulogne.

Fun Fact **Under the Channel**

Queen Elizabeth II and the late French president François Mitterrand opened the Channel Tunnel in 1994, and the ***Eurostar Express*** has daily passenger service from London to Paris and Brussels. The $15 billion tunnel, one of the great engineering feats of our time, is the first link between Britain and the Continent since the Ice Age. The 50km (31-mile) journey takes 35 minutes, with actual time spent in the Chunnel 19 minutes.

Eurostar tickets are available through **Rail Europe** (✆ **888/382-7245;** www.raileurope.com). In London, make reservations for Eurostar (or any other train in Europe) at ✆ **0870/518-6186.** In Paris, call ✆ **01-70-70-60-88,** and in the United States, call ✆ **800/EUROSTAR;** www.eurostar.com. Chunnel train traffic is competitive with air travel, if you calculate door-to-door travel time. Trains leave from London's St. Pancras Station and arrive in Paris at Gare du Nord. Fares are complicated and depend on a number of factors. The cheapest one-way fare is Leisure RT, requiring a purchase at least 14 business days before the date of travel and a minimum 2-night stay. A return ticket must be booked to receive this discounted fare.

The Chunnel accommodates not only trains but also cars, buses, taxis, and motorcycles. **Eurotunnel,** a train carrying vehicles under the Channel (✆ **0870/535-3535** in the U.K.; www.eurotunnel.com), connects Calais, France, with Folkestone, England. It operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, running every 15 minutes during peak travel times and at least once an hour at night.

Before boarding Eurotunnel, you stop at a toll booth to pay and then pass through Immigration for both countries at one time. During the ride, you travel in air-conditioned carriages, remaining in your car or stepping outside to stretch your legs. An hour later, you simply drive off.

Hovercraft and hydrofoils make the trip from Dover to Calais, the shortest distance across the Channel, in just 40 minutes during good weather. The ferries may take several hours, depending on the weather and tides. If you're bringing a car, it's important to make

reservations—space below decks is usually crowded. Timetables can vary depending on weather conditions and many other factors.

The leading operator of ferries across the channel is **P&O Ferries** (✆ **0871/664-5645** in the U.K.; www.poferries.com). It operates car and passenger ferries between Portsmouth, England, and Cherbourg, France (three departures a day; 4 hr., 15 min. each way during daylight hours, 7 hr. each way at night); and between Portsmouth and Le Havre, France (three a day; 5½ hr. each way). Most popular is the route between Dover, England, and Calais, France (25 sailings a day; 75 min. each way).

8 Arrondissements in Brief

Each of Paris's 20 arrondissements possesses a unique style and flavor. You'll want to decide which district appeals most to you and then try to find accommodations there. Later on, try to visit as many areas as you can so you get the full taste of Paris.

1ST ARRONDISSEMENT (MUSEE DU LOUVRE/LES HALLES) "I never knew what a palace was until I had a glimpse of the Louvre," wrote Nathaniel Hawthorne. Perhaps the world's greatest art museum, the **Louvre,** a former royal residence, still lures visitors to the 1st arrondissement. Walk through the **Jardin des Tuileries,** Paris's most formal garden (laid out by Le Nôtre, gardener to Louis XIV). Pause to take in the classic beauty of **place Vendôme,** the opulent home of the Hôtel Ritz. Zola's "belly of Paris" (Les Halles) is no longer the food-and-meat market of Paris (traders moved to the new, more accessible suburb of Rungis); today the **Forum des Halles** is a center of shopping, entertainment, and culture.

2ND ARRONDISSEMENT (LA BOURSE) Home to the **Bourse** (stock exchange), this Right Bank district lies between the Grands Boulevards and rue Etienne-Marcel. From Monday to Friday, brokers play the market until it's time to break for lunch, when the movers and shakers of French capitalism channel their hysteria into the area restaurants. Much of the eastern end of the arrondissement **(Le Sentier)** is devoted to wholesale outlets of the Paris garment district, where thousands of garments are sold (usually in bulk) to buyers from clothing stores throughout Europe.

3RD ARRONDISSEMENT (LE MARAIS) This district embraces much of Le Marais (the swamp), one of the best-loved Right Bank neighborhoods. (It extends into the 4th as well.) After decades of decay, Le Marais recently made a comeback, though it may never again enjoy the prosperity of its 17th-century aristocratic

heyday; today it contains Paris's **gay neighborhood,** with lots of gay/lesbian restaurants, bars, and stores, as well as the remains of the old Jewish quarter, centered on **rue des Rosiers.** Two of the chief attractions are the **Musée Picasso,** a kind of pirate's ransom of painting and sculpture, which the Picasso estate had to turn over to the French government in lieu of the artist's astronomical death duties, and the **Musée Carnavalet,** which brings to life the history of Paris from prehistoric times to the present.

4TH ARRONDISSEMENT (ILE DE LA CITE/ILE ST-LOUIS & BEAUBOURG) It seems as if the 4th has it all: Notre-Dame on Ile de la Cité, and Ile St-Louis and its aristocratic town houses, courtyards, and antiques shops. **Ile St-Louis,** a former cow pasture and dueling ground, is home to dozens of 17th-century mansions and 6,000 lucky Louisiens, its permanent residents. Seek out **Ile de la Cité**'s two Gothic churches, **Sainte-Chapelle** and **Notre-Dame,** a majestic structure that, according to poet E. E. Cummings, "doesn't budge an inch for all the idiocies of this world." You'll find France's finest bird and flower markets along with the nation's law courts, which Balzac described as a "cathedral of chicanery." It was here that Marie Antoinette was sentenced to death in 1793. The 4th is also home to the freshly renovated **Centre Pompidou,** one of the top-three attractions in France. After all this pomp and glory, you can retreat to **place des Vosges,** a square of perfect harmony and beauty where Victor Hugo lived from 1832 to 1848 and penned many of his famous masterpieces.

5TH ARRONDISSEMENT (QUARTIER LATIN) The Latin Quarter is the intellectual heart and soul of Paris. Bookstores, schools, churches, clubs, student dives, Roman ruins, publishing houses, and expensive boutiques characterize the district. Beginning with the founding of the **Sorbonne** in 1253, the quarter was called Latin because students and professors spoke the language. You'll follow in the footsteps of Descartes, Camus, Sartre, James Thurber, and Hemingway as you explore. Changing times have brought Greek, Moroccan, and Vietnamese immigrants, among others, offering everything from couscous to fiery-hot spring rolls and souvlaki. The 5th borders the Seine, and you'll want to stroll along quai de Montebello, inspecting the inventories of the *bouquinistes* (secondhand-book dealers), who sell everything from antique Daumier prints to yellowing copies of Balzac's *Père Goriot* in the shadow of Notre-Dame. The 5th also has the **Panthéon,** built by Louis XV after he recovered from gout and wanted to do something nice for St. Geneviève, Paris's patron saint. It's the resting place of Rousseau,

Gambetta, Zola, Braille, Hugo, Voltaire, and Jean Moulin, the World War II Resistance leader whom the Gestapo tortured to death.

6TH ARRONDISSEMENT (ST-GERMAIN/LUXEMBOURG) This is the heartland of Paris publishing and, for some, the most colorful Left Bank quarter, where waves of young artists still emerge from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. The secret of the district lies in discovering its narrow streets, hidden squares, and magnificent gardens. To be really authentic, stroll with an unwrapped loaf of sourdough bread from the wood-fired ovens of **Poilâne** at 8 rue du Cherche-Midi. Everywhere you turn, you'll encounter historic and literary associations, nowhere more so than on **rue Jacob.** At no. 7, Racine lived with his uncle as a teenager; Richard Wagner resided at no. 14 from 1841 to 1842; Ingres lived at no. 27 (now it's the office of the French publishing house Editions du Seuil); and Hemingway once occupied a tiny upstairs room at no. 44. The 6th takes in the **Jardin du Luxembourg,** a 24-hectare (59-acre) playground where Isadora Duncan went dancing in the predawn hours and a destitute Ernest Hemingway went looking for pigeons for lunch, carrying them in a baby carriage back to his humble flat for cooking.

7TH ARRONDISSEMENT (EIFFEL TOWER/MUSEE D'ORSAY) Paris's most famous symbol, **la Tour Eiffel,** dominates Paris and especially the 7th, a Left Bank district of residences and offices. The tower is one of the most recognizable landmarks in the world, despite the fact that many Parisians (especially its nearest neighbors) hated it when it was unveiled in 1889. Many of Paris's most imposing monuments are in the 7th, such as **Hôtel des Invalides,** which contains Napoleon's Tomb and the Musée de l'Armée, and the **Musée d'Orsay,** the world's premier showcase of 19th-century French art and culture, housed in the old Gare d'Orsay. But there's much hidden charm here as well. **Rue du Bac** was home to the swashbuckling heroes of Dumas's *The Three Musketeers* and to James McNeill Whistler, who moved to no. 110 after selling *Mother.* Auguste Rodin lived at what's now the **Musée Rodin,** 77 rue de Varenne, until his death in 1917.

8TH ARRONDISSEMENT (CHAMPS-ELYSEES/MADELEINE) The showcase of the 8th is the **Champs-Elysées,** stretching from the **Arc de Triomphe** to the Egyptian obelisk on **place de la Concorde.** By the 1980s, the Champs-Elysées had become a garish strip, with too much traffic, too many fast-food joints, and too many panhandlers. In the 1990s, Jacques Chirac, then the Gaullist mayor, launched a cleanup, broadening the sidewalks and planting new trees. Now you'll find fashion houses,

elegant hotels, restaurants, and shops. Everything in the 8th is the city's best, grandest, and most impressive. It has the best restaurant **(Taillevent),** the sexiest strip joint **(Crazy Horse Saloon),** the most splendid square **(place de la Concorde),** the grandest hotel (the **Crillon**), the most impressive arch **(Arc de Triomphe),** the most expensive residential street **(avenue Montaigne),** the world's oldest subway station **(Franklin-D.-Roosevelt),** and the most ancient monument (the 3,300-year-old **Obelisk of Luxor**).

9TH ARRONDISSEMENT (OPERA GARNIER/PIGALLE) From the Quartier de l'Opéra to the strip joints of Pigalle (the infamous "Pig Alley" of World War II GIs), the 9th endures, even if fashion prefers other addresses. Over the decades, the 9th has been celebrated in literature and song for the music halls that brought gaiety to the city. The building at 17 bd. de la Madeleine was where Marie Duplessis, who gained fame as the heroine Marguerite Gautier in Alexandre Dumas the younger's *La Dame aux Camellias,* died. (Greta Garbo played her in the film *Camille.*) **Place Pigalle** has nightclubs, but is no longer home to cafe La Nouvelle Athènes, where Degas, Pissarro, and Manet used to meet. Other attractions include the **Folies-Bergère,** where cancan dancers have been high-kicking since 1868. It is the rococo **Opéra Garnier** (home of the Phantom) that made the 9th the last hurrah of Second Empire opulence. Renoir hated it, but generations later, Chagall painted its ceilings. Pavlova danced *Swan Lake* here, and Nijinsky took the night off to go cruising.

10TH ARRONDISSEMENT (GARE DU NORD/GARE DE L'EST) The **Gare du Nord** and **Gare de l'Est,** along with porno houses and dreary commercial zones, make the 10th one of the least desirable arrondissements for living, dining, or sightseeing. We try to avoid it except for one of our longtime favorite restaurants: **Brasserie Flo** (✆ **01-47-70-13-59**), 7 cour des Petites-Ecuries, best known for its formidable *choucroute,* a heap of sauerkraut garnished with everything.

11TH ARRONDISSEMENT (OPERA BASTILLE) For many years, this quarter seemed to sink lower and lower into decay, overcrowded by working-class immigrants from the far reaches of the former Empire. The opening of the **Opéra Bastille,** however, has given the 11th new hope and new life. The facility, called the "people's opera house," stands on the landmark place de la Bastille, where on July 14, 1789, 633 Parisians stormed the fortress and seized the ammunition depot, as the French Revolution swept across the city. Over the years, the prison held such luminaries as Voltaire and the Marquis de Sade. The area between

the Marais, Ménilmontant, and République is now being called "blue-collar chic," as the *artistes* of Paris who've been driven from the costlier sections of the Marais can now be found walking the gritty sidewalks of rue Oberkampf. Hip Parisians in search of a more cutting-edge experience are now living and working among the decaying 19th-century apartments and the 1960s public housing with graffiti-splattered walls.

12TH ARRONDISSEMENT (BOIS DE VINCENNES/GARE DE LYON) Very few out-of-towners came here until a French chef opened a restaurant called **Au Trou Gascon** (p. 71). The 12th's major attraction remains the **Bois de Vincennes,** sprawling on the eastern periphery of Paris. This park is a longtime favorite of French families who enjoy its zoos and museums, its royal châteaux and boating lakes, and its **Parc Floral de Paris,** a celebrated flower garden boasting springtime rhododendrons and autumn dahlias. Venture into the dreary **Gare de Lyon** for **Le Train Bleu,** 20 bd. Diderot (✆ **01-43-43-09-06**), in the Gare de Lyon, 12e, a restaurant whose ceiling frescoes and Art Nouveau decor are national artistic treasures; the food is good, too. The 12th, once a depressing urban wasteland, has been singled out for budgetary resuscitation and is beginning to sport new housing, shops, gardens, and restaurants. Many will occupy the site of the former Reuilly rail tracks.

13TH ARRONDISSEMENT (GARE D'AUSTERLITZ) Centered on the grimy **Gare d'Austerlitz,** the 13th might have its devotees, but we've yet to meet one. British snobs who flitted in and out of the train station were among the first of the district's foreign visitors and wrote the 13th off as a dreary working-class counterpart of London's East End. The 13th is also home to Paris's **Chinatown,** stretching for 13 square blocks around the Tolbiac Métro stop. It emerged out of the refugee crisis at the end of the Vietnam War, taking over a neighborhood that held mostly Arab-speaking peoples. Today, recognizing overcrowding in the district, the Paris civic authorities are imposing new, not particularly welcome, restrictions on population densities.

14TH ARRONDISSEMENT (MONTPARNASSE) The northern end of this large arrondissement is devoted to **Montparnasse,** home of the "Lost Generation" and stomping ground of Stein, Toklas, Hemingway, and other American expatriates of the 1920s. After World War II, it ceased to be the center of intellectual life, but the memory lingers in its cafes. One of the monuments that sets the tone of the neighborhood is **Rodin's statue of Balzac** at the junction of boulevards Montparnasse and Raspail.

At this corner are some of the world's most famous **literary cafes,** including La Rotonde, Le Select, La Dôme, and La Coupole. Though Gertrude Stein avoided them (she loathed cafes), other American expats, including Hemingway and Fitzgerald, had no qualms about enjoying a drink here (or quite a few of them, for that matter). Stein stayed at home (27 rue de Fleurus) with Alice B. Toklas, collecting paintings, including those of Picasso, and entertaining the likes of Max Jacob, Apollinaire, T. S. Eliot, and Matisse.

15TH ARRONDISSEMENT (GARE MONTPARNASSE/ INSTITUT PASTEUR) This is a mostly residential district beginning at **Gare Montparnasse** and stretching to the Seine. In size and population, it's the largest quarter of Paris, but it draws few tourists and has few attractions except for the **Parc des Expositions,** the **Cimetière du Montparnasse,** and the **Institut Pasteur.** In the early 20th century, many artists—such as Chagall, Léger, and Modigliani—lived here in a shared atelier known as "The Beehive."

16TH ARRONDISSEMENT (TROCADERO/BOIS DE BOULOGNE) Originally the village of Passy, where Benjamin Franklin lived during most of his time in Paris, this district is still reminiscent of Proust's world. Highlights include the **Bois de Boulogne;** the **Jardin du Trocadéro;** the **Maison de Balzac;** the **Musée Guimet** (famous for its Asian collections); and the **Cimetière de Passy,** resting place of Manet, Talleyrand, Giraudoux, and Debussy. One of the largest arrondissements, it's known today for its well-heeled bourgeoisie, its upscale rents, and some rather posh (and, according to its critics, rather smug) residential boulevards. The arrondissement also has the best vantage point to view the Eiffel Tower: **place du Trocadéro.**

17TH ARRONDISSEMENT (PARC MONCEAU/PLACE CLICHY) Flanking the northern periphery of Paris, the 17th incorporates neighborhoods of bourgeois respectability (in its west end) and less affluent neighborhoods in its east end. It boasts two of the great restaurants of Paris, **Guy Savoy** and **Michel Rostang.**

18TH ARRONDISSEMENT (MONTMARTRE) The 18th is the most famous outer quarter of Paris, containing **Montmartre,** the **Moulin Rouge, Sacré-Coeur,** and ultratouristy **place du Tertre.** Utrillo was its native son; Renoir lived here; and Toulouse-Lautrec adopted the area as his own. The most famous enclave of artists in Paris's history, the **Bateau-Lavoir** of Picasso fame, gathered here. Max Jacob, Matisse, and Braque were all frequent visitors. Today, place Blanche is known for its prostitutes, and

Montmartre is filled with honky-tonks, souvenir shops, and terrible restaurants. You can still find pockets of quiet beauty, though. The city's most famous flea market, the **Marché aux Puces de Clignancourt,** is another landmark.

19TH ARRONDISSEMENT (LA VILLETTE) Today, visitors come to what was once the village of La Villette to see the angular **Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie,** a spectacular science museum and park built on a site that for years was devoted to the city's slaughterhouses. Mostly residential and not at all upscale, the district is one of the most ethnically diverse in Paris, the home of people from all parts of the former Empire. A highlight is **Les Buttes Chaumont,** a park where kids can enjoy puppet shows and donkey rides.

20TH ARRONDISSEMENT (PERE-LACHAISE CEMETERY) The 20th's greatest landmark is **Père-Lachaise Cemetery,** the resting place of Edith Piaf, Marcel Proust, Oscar Wilde, Isadora Duncan, Sarah Bernhardt, Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, Colette, Jim Morrison, and many others. Otherwise, the 20th arrondissement is a dreary and sometimes volatile melting pot comprising residents from France's former colonies. Though nostalgia buffs sometimes head here to visit Piaf's former neighborhood, **Ménilmontant-Belleville,** it has been almost totally bulldozed and rebuilt since the days when she grew up here.

9 Getting Around

CITY LAYOUT

Paris is surprisingly compact. Occupying 2,723 sq. km (1,051 sq. miles), its urban area is home to more than 11 million people. The river Seine divides Paris into the **Rive Droite (Right Bank)** to the north and the **Rive Gauche (Left Bank)** to the south. These designations make sense when you stand on a bridge and face downstream (west)—to your right is the north bank, to your left the south. A total of 32 bridges link the Right Bank and the Left Bank. Some provide access to the two islands at the heart of the city—**Ile de la Cité,** the city's birthplace and site of Notre-Dame; and **Ile St-Louis,** a moat-guarded oasis of 17th-century mansions.

The main street on the Right Bank is **avenue des Champs-Elysées,** beginning at the Arc de Triomphe and running to place de la Concorde. Avenue des Champs-Elysées and 11 other avenues radiate like the arms of an asterisk from the Arc de Triomphe, giving it its original name, place de l'Etoile (*étoile* means "star"). It was

renamed place Charles-de-Gaulle following the general's death; today, it's often referred to as place Charles-de-Gaulle–Etoile.

FINDING AN ADDRESS Paris is divided into 20 municipal wards called ***arrondissements,*** each with its own city hall, police station, and post office; some have remnants of market squares. Arrondissements spiral out clockwise from the 1st, in the geographical center of the city. The 2nd through the 8th form a ring around the 1st, and the 9th through the 17th form an outer ring around the inner ring. The 18th, 19th, and 20th are at the far northern and eastern reaches of the Right Bank. Arrondissements 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, and 15 are on the Left Bank.

Most city maps are divided by arrondissement, and addresses include the arrondissement number (in Roman or Arabic numerals and followed by "er" or "e"). Paris also has its own version of a zip code. The mailing address for a hotel is written as, for example, "Paris 75014." The last two digits, 14, indicate that the address is in the 14th arrondissement—in this case, Montparnasse.

Numbers on buildings running parallel to the Seine usually follow the course of the river—east to west. On perpendicular streets, building numbers begin low closer to the river.

MAPS If you're staying more than 2 or 3 days, purchase an inexpensive pocket-size book called *Paris par arrondissement,* available at newsstands and bookshops; prices start at 6.50€ ($9.40). This guide provides you with a Métro map, a foldout map of the city, and maps of each arrondissement, with all streets listed and keyed.

ARRIVING

BY PLANE Paris has two international airports: **Aéroport d'Orly,** 14km (8⅔ miles) south of the city, and **Aéroport Roissy–Charles de Gaulle,** 23km (14 miles) northeast. A shuttle (16€/$23) makes the 50- to 75-minute journey between the two airports about every 30 minutes.

Charles de Gaulle Airport (Roissy) At Charles de Gaulle (✆ **01-48-62-12-12** or 39-50 from France only), foreign carriers use Aérogare 1, while Air France uses Aérogare 2. From Aérogare 1, you take a moving walkway to the passport checkpoint and the Customs area. A *navette* (shuttle bus) links the two terminals.

The free shuttle buses also transport you to the **Roissy rail station,** from which fast RER (Réseau Express Régional) trains leave every 10 minutes between 5am and midnight for Métro stations including Gare du Nord, Châtelet, Luxembourg, Port-Royal, and

Denfert-Rochereau. A typical fare from Roissy to any point in central Paris is 8.20€ ($12) per adult (5.60€/$8.10) for children 4 to 10. Travel time from the airport to central Paris is around 35 to 40 minutes.

You can also take an **Air France shuttle bus** (✆ **08-92-35-08-20** or 01-48-64-14-24; www.cars-airfrance.com) to central Paris for 13€ ($19) one-way, 20€ ($29) roundtrip. It stops at the Palais des Congrès (Port Maillot) and continues to place Charles-de-Gaulle–Étoile, where subway lines can carry you to any point in Paris. That ride, depending on traffic, takes 45 to 55 minutes. The shuttle departs about every 20 minutes between 5:40am and 11pm.

The **Roissybus** (✆ **01-58-76-16-16**), operated by the RATP, departs from the airport daily from 6am to 11:45pm and costs 8.60€ ($12) for the 45- to 50-minute ride. Departures are about every 15 minutes, and the bus leaves you near the corner of rue Scribe and place de l'Opéra in the heart of Paris.

A **taxi** from Roissy into the city will cost about 47€ to 60€ ($68–$87); from 8pm to 7am the fare is 40% higher. Long, orderly lines for taxis form outside each of the airport's terminals.

Orly Airport Orly (✆ **01-49-75-52-52** or 39-50 from France only) has two terminals—Orly Sud (south) for international flights and Orly Ouest (west) for domestic flights. A free shuttle bus connects them in 3 minutes.

Air France buses leave from Exit E of Orly Sud and from Exit F of Orly Ouest every 12 minutes between 6am and 11:30pm for Gare des Invalides; the fare is 9€ ($13) one-way, 14€ ($20) round-trip. Returning to the airport (about 30 min.), buses leave both the Montparnasse and the Invalides terminal for Orly Sud or Orly Ouest every 15 minutes.

Another way to get to central Paris is to take the RER from points throughout central Paris to the station at Pont-de-Rungis/Aéroport d'Orly for a per-person one-way fare of 6€ ($8.70), and from there, take the free shuttle bus that departs every 15 minutes from Pont-de-Rungis to both of Orly's terminals. Combined travel time is about 45 to 55 minutes.

A **taxi** from Orly to central Paris costs about 30€ to 50€ ($44–$73), more at night. Don't take a meterless taxi from Orly—it's much safer (and usually cheaper) to hire one of the metered cabs, which are under the scrutiny of a police officer.

Tips The Paris Airport Shuttle

The **Paris Airport Shuttle** (✆ **01-53-39-18-18;** fax 01-53-39-13-13; www.parishuttle.com) is the best option for airport transit. It charges 25€ ($36) for one person or 19€ ($28) per person for two or more going to and from Charles de Gaulle or Orly. Both shuttles accept American Express, Visa, and MasterCard, with 1-day advance reservations required.

BY TRAIN Paris has six major stations: **Gare d'Austerlitz,** 55 quai d'Austerlitz, 13e (serving the southwest, with trains to and from the Loire Valley, Bordeaux, the Pyrénées, and Spain); **Gare de l'Est,** place du 11-Novembre-1918, 10e (serving the east, with trains to and from Strasbourg, Reims, and beyond, to Zurich and Austria); **Gare de Lyon,** 20 bd. Diderot, 12e (serving the southeast, with trains to and from the Côte d'Azur [Nice, Cannes, St-Tropez], Provence, and beyond, to Geneva and Italy); **Gare Montparnasse,** 17 bd. Vaugirard, 15e (serving the west, with trains to and from Brittany); **Gare du Nord,** 18 rue de Dunkerque, 15e (serving the north, with trains to and from London, Holland, Denmark, and northern Germany); and **Gare St-Lazare,** 13 rue d'Amsterdam, 8e (serving the northwest, with trains to and from Normandy). Buses operate between the stations, and each station has a Métro stop. For train information and to make reservations, call ✆ **08-92-35-35-35** from abroad, or 36-35 from France, between 8am and 8pm daily. From Paris, one-way rail passage to Tours costs 30€ to 51€ ($44–$74); one-way to Strasbourg 55€ or 80€ ($80 or $116), depending on the routing.

Warning: The stations and surrounding areas are usually seedy and frequented by pickpockets, hustlers, hookers, and addicts. Be alert, especially at night.

BY BUS Most buses arrive at the **Eurolines France** station, 28 av. du Général-de-Gaulle, Bagnolet (✆ **08-92-89-90-91;** www.eurolines.fr; Métro: Gallieni).

BY CAR Driving in Paris is *not* recommended. Parking is difficult and traffic dense. If you drive, remember that Paris is encircled by a ring road, the *périphérique.* Always obtain detailed directions to your destination, including the name of the exit on the *périphérique* (exits aren't numbered). Avoid rush hours.

The major highways into Paris are A1 from the north; A13 from Rouen, Normandy, and other points northwest; A10 from Spain and the southwest; A6 and A7 from the French Alps, the Riviera, and Italy; and A4 from eastern France.

BY METRO (SUBWAY) The Métro (✆ **08-92-69-32-46** from abroad, or 32-46 from France; www.ratp.fr) is the most efficient and fastest way to get around Paris. All lines are numbered, and the final destination of each line is clearly marked on subway maps, in the system's underground passageways, and on the train cars. The Métro runs daily from 5:30am to 1:15am (last departure at 2am on Saturday). It's reasonably safe at any hour, but beware of pickpockets.

Most stations display a map of the Métro at the entrance. To locate your correct train on a map, find your destination, follow the line to the end of its route, and note the name of the final stop, which is that line's direction. In the station, follow the signs for your direction in the passageways until you see the label on a train. Many larger stations have maps with push-button indicators that light up your route when you press the button for your destination.

Transfer stations are *correspondances*—some require long walks; Châtelet is the most difficult—but most trips require only one transfer. When transferring, follow the orange CORRESPONDANCE signs to the proper platform. Don't follow a SORTIE (exit) sign, or you'll have to pay again to get back on the train.

On the urban lines, one ticket for 1.50€ ($2.20) lets you travel to any point. On the Sceaux, Boissy-St-Léger, and St-Germain-en-Laye lines to the suburbs, fares are based on distance. A *carnet* is the best buy—10 tickets for about 11€ ($16).

At the turnstile entrances to the station, insert your ticket and pass through. At some exits, tickets are also checked, so hold onto yours. There are occasional ticket checks on trains and platforms and in passageways, too.

RER TRAINS A suburban train system, RER (Réseau Express Regional), passes through the heart of Paris, traveling faster than the Métro and running daily from 5:30am to 1am. This system works like the Métro and requires the same tickets. The major stops within central Paris, linking the RER to the Métro, are Nation, Gare de Lyon, Charles de Gaulle–Étoile, Gare-Étoile, and Gare du Nord as well as Châtelet-Les-Halles. All these stops are on the Right Bank. On the Left Bank, RER stops include Denfert-Rochereau and St-Michel. The five RER lines are marked A through E. Different

branches are labeled by a number, the C5 Line serving Versailles-Rive Gauche, for example. Electric signboards next to each track outline all the possible stops along the way. Make sure that the little square next to your intended stop is lit.

BY BUS Buses are much slower than the Métro. The majority run from 6:30am to 9:30pm (a few operate until 12:30am, and 10 operate during early morning hours). Service is limited on Sundays and holidays. Bus and Métro fares are the same; you can use the same tickets on both. Most bus rides require one ticket, but some destinations require two (never more than two within the city limits).

At certain stops, signs list destinations and bus numbers serving that point. Destinations are usually listed north to south and east to west. Most stops are also posted on the sides of the buses. During rush hours, you may have to take a ticket from a dispensing machine, indicating your position in the line at the stop.

If you intend to use the buses a lot, pick up an RATP bus map at the office on place de la Madeleine, 8e, or at the tourist offices at RATP headquarters, 54 Quai de La Rapée, 12e. For detailed recorded information (in English) on bus and Métro routes, call ✆ **01-58-76-16-16** (or 32-46 in France), open Monday to Friday 7am to 9pm.

The RATP also operates the **Balabus,** big-windowed, orange-and-white motorcoaches that run only during limited hours: Sundays and national holidays from noon to 8:30pm, from April 15 to the end of September. Itineraries run in both directions between Gare de Lyon and the Grande Arche de La Défense, encompassing some beautiful vistas. It's a great deal—three Métro tickets for 1.50€ ($2.20) each, will carry you the entire route. You'll recognize the bus and the route it follows by the Bb symbol emblazoned on each bus's side and on signs posted beside the route it follows.

2

Where to Stay

Paris boasts some 2,000 hotels—with about 80,000 rooms—spread across its 20 arrondissements. They range from the Ritz and the Crillon to dives so repellent that even George Orwell, author of *Down and Out in Paris and London,* wouldn't have considered checking in. (Of course, you won't find those in this guide!) We've included deluxe places for those who can afford to live like the Sultan of Brunei, as well as a wide range of moderate and inexpensive choices for the rest of us.

Most visitors, at least those from North America, come to Paris in July and August. Many French people are on vacation, and trade fairs and conventions come to a halt, so there are usually plenty of rooms, even though these months are traditionally the peak season for European travel. In most hotels, February is as busy as April or September, due to the volume of business travelers and tourists taking advantage of off-season discounts.

Because hot weather rarely lasts long in Paris, few hotels, except the deluxe ones, provide air-conditioning. If you're trapped in a garret on a hot summer night, you'll have to sweat it out. You can open your window to get cooler air, but you also may get noise from outside. To avoid this, request a room in back when reserving.

1 On the Right Bank

We'll begin with the most centrally located arrondissements on the Right Bank and then work our way through the more outlying neighborhoods and to the area around the Arc de Triomphe.

1ST ARRONDISSEMENT (LOUVRE/LES HALLES)

EXPENSIVE

Hôtel Burgundy ✪ The Burgundy is one of the least-expensive hotels in a mortgage-the-house sea of super-priced accommodations. The frequently renovated building was constructed in the 1830s as two adjacent town houses—one a pension where Baudelaire wrote poetry in the 1860s, the other a bordello. British-born managers

who insisted on using the English name, linked the houses. The hotel hosts many North and South Americans and has conservatively decorated rooms.

8 rue Duphot, 75001 Paris. ✆ **01-42-60-34-12.** Fax 01-47-03-95-20. www.burgundyhotel.com. 89 units. 173€–273€ ($251–$396) double, 323€–353€ ($468–$512) suite. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Madeleine or Concorde. **Amenities:** Restaurant; bar; room service; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* TV, minibar, hair dryer.

Westin Paris ★ *Kids* It's location, location, location. You're 30 seconds from the Tuileries Gardens, 3 minutes from the place Vendôme, 5 minutes from the Place de la Concorde, and 7 minutes from the Louvre. Renovations have breathed new life into most of the rooms, which are a bit small for the most part but comfortably furnished and well maintained. Some patrons have written in the guest book that they found the beds "heavenly." Two connecting rooms can be blocked off for families, and family rates are available. Many of the units overlook an inner courtyard.

3 rue de Castiglione, 75001 Paris. ✆ **800/454-6835** in the U.S. or 01-44-77-11-11. Fax 01-44-77-14-60. www.starwoodhotels.com. 438 units. 360€–480€ ($522–$696) double, from 520€ ($754) suite. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Tuileries. **Amenities:** Restaurant; bar; fitness center; business center; room service; babysitting; laundry service. *In room:* A/C, TV, Wi-Fi, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

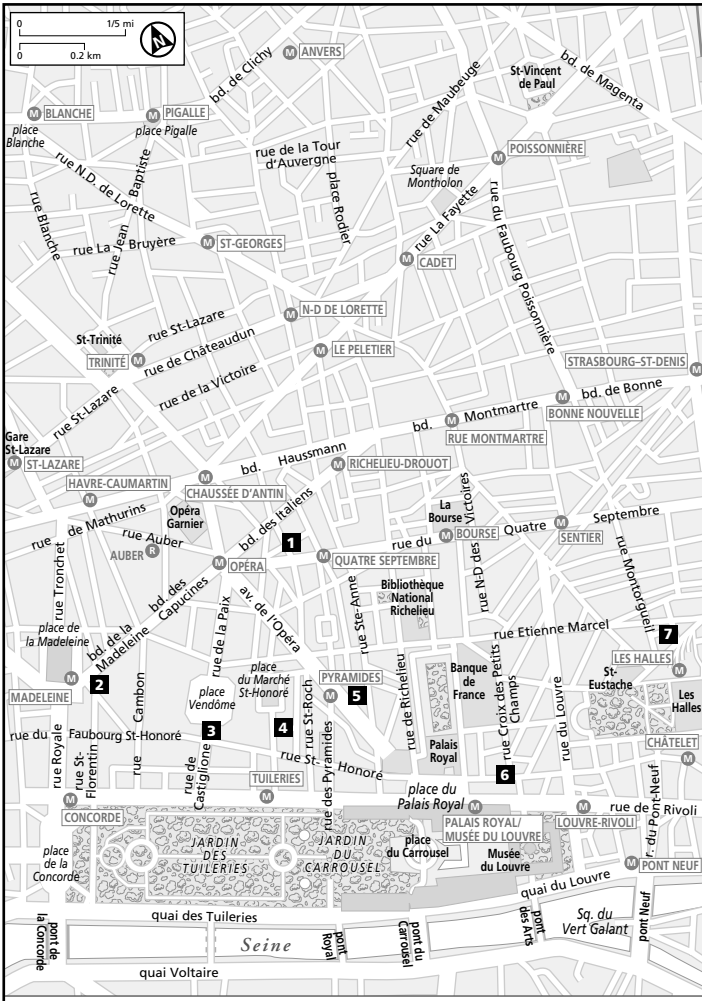
MODERATE

Hôtel Britannique *Value* Conservatively modern and plush, this is a much-renovated 19th-century hotel near Les Halles and Notre-Dame. The place is not only British in name, but also seems to cultivate English graciousness. The guest rooms are small, but immaculate and soundproof, with comfortable beds. A satellite receiver gets U.S. and U.K. television shows. The reading room is a cozy retreat.

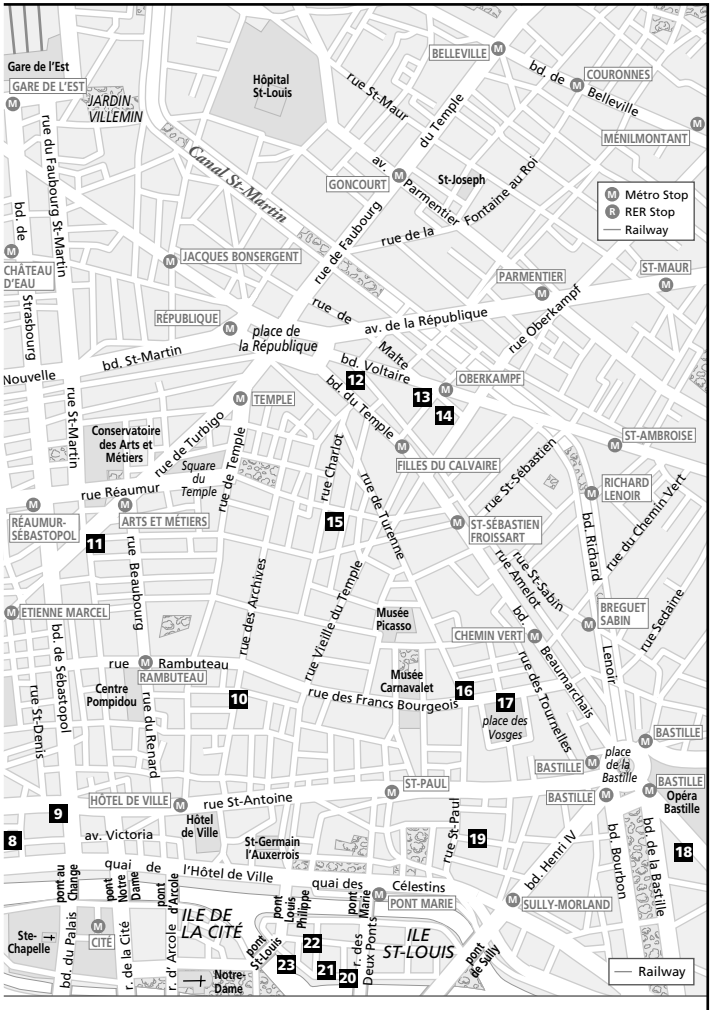
20 av. Victoria, 75001 Paris. ✆ **01-42-33-74-59.** Fax 01-42-33-82-65. www.hotel-britannique.fr. 39 units. 178€–215€ ($258–$312) double; 263€–315€ ($381–$457) suite. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Châtelet. **Amenities:** Bar; room service; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

Hotel Thérèse Close to the Louvre, Place Vendôme, and the Tuileries Gardens, this hotel combines French charm with English classicism. For example, the library and bar evoke a London club with wood-paneled walls and plush armchairs, but the lounge is adorned with Parisian art. It's government-rated three stars but seems more like four stars in ambience, style, and comfort. Owner Sylvia de Lattre, who likes shades of pistachio and royal blue, trolled the flea markets for paintings and prints to personalize each bedroom. The

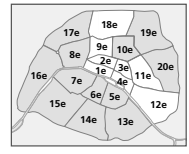
Hotels in the Heart of the Right Bank



Golden Tulip Opéra de Noailles **1**
Hôtel Bellevue & du Chariot d'Or **11**
Hôtel Britannique **8**
Hôtel Burgundy **2**
Hotel Croix de Malte **14**
Hôtel de la Place des Vosges **16**
Hôtel de Lutéce **22**
Hôtel des Deux-Iles **20**
Hôtel du Bourg Tibourg **10**
Hôtel du Jeu de Paume **21**
Hôtel du Petit Moulin **15**



Hôtel du 7e Art **19**
Hôtel Pavillion Bastille **18**
Hôtel Saint-Louis **23**
Hôtel Thérèse **5**
Hôtel Victoires Opéra **7**
Le Petit Châtelet **9**
Murano Urban Resort **12**
Prince Albert **4**
Pavillon de la Reine **17**
Residence Alhambra **13**
Timhôtel Le Louvre **6**
Westin Paris **3**



rooms are unpretentious but filled with quality furnishings from the soft, efficient lighting by Philippe Starck to the natural wool quilts.

5-7 rue Thérèse, 75001 Paris. ✆ **01-42-96-10-01.** Fax 01-42-96-15-22. www.hotel therese.com. 43 units. 150€–320€ ($218–$464) double. AE, MC, V. Métro: Musée du Louvre. **Amenities:** Library/bar; room service; laundry service; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, Wi-Fi, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

INEXPENSIVE

Le Petit Châtelet ★ *Value* Small, unpretentious, and inexpensive, this hotel has a difficult-to-detect front entrance (it's tucked within a cluster of more highly visible restaurants); a clientele that includes lots of musicians playing at the nearby jazz clubs; and a warm-toned decorative scheme loosely inspired by India, Southeast Asia, and Africa. Bedrooms are small, a bit battered, and artfully accessorized with musical instruments and framed paintings—in some cases originals. Bathrooms are compact, with showers but not bathtubs and tile work. There's no elevator, so be prepared to climb as many as six flights of stairs. The largest room, and the only one with its own private terrace, is on the top floor.

9 rue St-Denis, 75001 Paris. ✆ **01-42-33-32-31.** www.fapeco.com. 11 units. 160€ ($232) double. AE, MC, V. Métro: Châtelet. **Amenities:** Restaurant; bar; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV.

Prince Albert *Value* A government-rated two-star hotel, this undiscovered lodging enjoys a great location near the place Vendôme and the Louvre area. It is a century-and-a-half old but has been brought completely up-to-date and has a certain charm—all at an affordable price. Built in the 1820s, the rooms are still evocative of 19th-century Paris, with their high ceilings. The furnishings, however, are modern and comfortable. Accommodations reveal that a decorator has come by, one fond of pink and green color schemes—sometimes with flowery fabrics.

5 rue Saint-Hyacinthe, 75001 Paris. ✆ **01-42-61-58-36.** Fax 01-42-60-04-06. www. hotelprincealbert.com. 30 units. 109€–120€ ($158–$174) double. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Tuileries. *In room:* A/C (in some), TV, Wi-Fi, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

Timhôtel Le Louvre *Kids* This hotel and its sibling in the 2nd arrondissement, the Timhôtel Palais-Royal, are part of a new breed of government-rated, two-star, family friendly hotels cropping up in France. These Timhôtels share the same manager and temperament. Though the rooms at the Palais-Royal branch are a bit larger than the ones here, this branch is so close to the Louvre that it's almost irresistible. The ambience is modern, with monochromatic rooms and wall-to-wall carpeting.

4 rue Croix des Petits-Champs, 75001 Paris. ✆ **01-42-60-34-86.** Fax 01-42-60-10-39. www.timhotel.fr. 56 units. 119€–170€ ($173–$247) double. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Palais-Royal. The 46-room **Timhôtel Palais-Royal** is at 3 rue de la |Banque, 75002 Paris (✆ **01-42-61-53-90;** fax 01-42-60-05-39; Métro: Bourse). **Amenities** (at both branches): Restaurant (breakfast only); nonsmoking rooms; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV.

2ND ARRONDISSEMENT (LA BOURSE)

EXPENSIVE

Hôtel Victoires Opéra ★ Head to this little charmer in the fashion district if you want a reasonably priced place convenient to Les Halles and the Pompidou as well as to the Marais, with its shops and mix of gay and straight restaurants. It's a classically decorated hotel, evoking the era of Louis Philippe. The rooms are comfortable but rather small, except for the junior suites. Most of the rooms come with tubs; the rest with showers. Skip the hotel breakfast (which costs extra) and cross the street to Stohrer at no. 51, one of Paris's most historic patisseries, founded in 1730 by the *pâtissier* to Louis XV.

56 rue de Montorgueil, 75002 Paris. ✆ **01-42-36-41-08.** Fax 01-45-08-08-79. www.hotelvictoiresopera.com. 24 units. 265€–345€ ($384–$500) double; 495€ ($718) junior suite. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Les Halles. **Amenities:** Room service; laundry service; dry cleaning; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, Wi-Fi, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

MODERATE

Golden Tulip Opéra de Noailles If you're looking for a choice address in the style of Putman and Starck, this place is worth a look, in a great location. The refined Art Deco choice offers bold colors and cutting-edge style, yet the prices remain reasonable. The guest rooms come in various shapes and sizes, but all are comfortable and have a tub/shower combo. A favorite is no. 601, which has its own indoor Japanese garden.

9 rue de la Michodière, 75002 Paris. ✆ **800/344-1212** in the U.S., or 01-47-42-92-90. Fax 01-49-24-92-71. www.paris-hotel-noailles.com. 59 units. 214€–275€ ($310–$399) double; 335€ ($486) suite. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: 4 Septembre or Opéra. RER: Opéra. **Amenities:** Bar; health club; sauna; room service; massage; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

3RD ARRONDISSEMENT (LE MARAIS)

EXPENSIVE

Murano Urban Resort ★ *Finds* This hotel oddity, not everyone's cup of tea but charming for some, was created when two abandoned buildings—one a run-down five-story apartment house; the other a three-story parking garage—were interconnected and upgraded into one building. The result is a trendsetting, aggressively minimalist

hotel with an angular sense of design. The decorative theme revolves around the transparency of Murano glass. You'll find a Murano glass chandelier in the green-toned lobby, another in a key spot on the ground floor, and very large glass-framed mirrors in some of the upper hallways. Two of the suites have small (about 14-sq.-m/161-sq.-ft.) swimming pools on their private terraces.

13 bd. du Temple, 75003 Paris. ✆ **01-42-71-20-00.** Fax 01-42-71-21-01. www.muranoresort.com. 52 units. 350€–650€ ($508–$943) double; from 750€ ($1,088) suite. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Filles du Calvaire. **Amenities:** Restaurant; bar; fitness center; spa; Jacuzzi; car-rental facilities; room service; nonsmoking rooms; rooms for those w/limited mobility; photo service. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, safe.

Pavillon de la Reine ★★ *Finds* This is the kind of hidden gem that Frommer's readers love, opening as it does onto the most romantic square in Paris. In days of yore the 1612 mansion was a gathering place for the likes of Racine, La Fontaine, Molière, and the Madame de Sévigné. You enter through an arcade that opens onto a small formal garden. The Louis XIII decor evokes the heyday of the square itself, and iron-banded Spanish antiques create a rustic aura. Each guest room is individually furnished in a historic or modern style—take your pick. Some units are duplexes with sleeping lofts above cozy salons.

28 Place des Vosges, 75003 Paris. ✆ **01-40-29-19-19.** Fax 01-40-29-19-20. www.pavillon-de-la-reine.com. 56 units. 370€–460€ ($537–$667) double; 520€–660€ ($754–$957) duplex, 570€ ($827) junior suite; 660€–830€ ($957–$1,204) suite. AE, MC, V. Métro: Bastille. **Amenities:** Bar; Internet access; room service; babysitting; laundry service. *In room:* A/C, TV, minibar.

MODERATE

Hotel du Petit Moulin ★ *Finds* In the heart of the Marais, this hotel, an enclave of bohemian chic, used to be a *boulangerie* where Victor Hugo came every morning to buy freshly baked *baguettes.* No more. Designer Christian Lacroix has gone behind the unpretentious facade and turned it into an idiosyncratic hotel with bold, daring designs in the bedrooms, which range in price from the Comfort Rooms to the Superior or Executive Rooms. A well-heeled array of international guests meets in the trendy bar or can be seen making their way through the lounge and halls decorated with period tapestries and Flemish frescoes.

29–31 rue du Poitous, 75003 Paris. ✆ **01-42-74-10-10.** www.hoteldupetitmoulin.com. 17 units. 250€–350€ ($363–$508) double. AE, MC, V. Métro: Bastille or Filles du Calvaire. **Amenities:** Bar; room service; laundry service. *In room:* TV, Wi-Fi, minibar, safe.

INEXPENSIVE

Hôtel Bellevue & du Chariot d'Or Originally built in 1860 as part of the majestic redevelopment of central Paris by Baron Haussmann, this hotel has a grand facade and inexpensive, relatively comfortable and cozy, simple bedrooms. The hotel has become more desirable because of its location in the once-neglected Arts et Métiers district north of the Pompidou Center. The second part of its name—"Chariot d'Or" (Golden Carriage)—derives from the medieval custom of placing brides-to-be (along with their dowries) in a flower-draped ceremonial carriage. During the occupation of Paris during World War II, the site was commandeered as a garrison for rank-and-file Nazi troops.

39 rue de Turbigo, 75003 Paris. ✆ **01-48-87-45-60.** Fax 01-48-87-95-04. www.hotelbellevue75.com. 59 units. 70€–72€ ($102–$104) double. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Châtelet–Les Halles or Réaumur-Sebastopol. **Amenities:** Bar; babysitting; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* TV, safe.

4TH ARRONDISSEMENT (ILE DE LA CITÉ/ ILE ST-LOUIS & BEAUBOURG)

EXPENSIVE

Hôtel de Lutèce This hotel feels like a country house in Brittany. The lounge, with its old fireplace, is furnished with antiques and contemporary paintings. Each of the guest rooms boasts antiques, adding to a refined atmosphere that attracts celebrities such as the duke and duchess of Bedford. The suites, though larger than the doubles, are often similar to doubles with extended sitting areas. Each is tastefully furnished, with an antique or two. The hotel is comparable in style and amenities to the Deux-Iles (see below), under the same ownership.

65 rue St-Louis-en-l'Ile, 75004 Paris. ✆ **01-43-26-23-52.** Fax 01-43-29-60-25. www.paris-hotel-lutece.com. 23 units. 185€ ($268) double; 215€ ($312) triple. AE, MC, V. Métro: Pont Marie or Cité. **Amenities:** Laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, safe.

Hôtel des Deux-Iles ✪ This is an unpretentious but charming choice in a great location. In a restored 18th-century town house, the hotel has elaborate decor, with bamboo and reed furniture and French provincial touches. The guest rooms are on the small side, but the beds are very comfortable and the bathrooms well-maintained, with tubs or shower units. A garden off the lobby leads to a basement breakfast room that has a fireplace.

59 rue St-Louis-en-l'Ile, 75004 Paris. ✆ **01-43-26-13-35.** Fax 01-43-29-60-25. www.deuxiles-paris-hotel.com. 17 units. 170€ ($247) double. AE, MC, V. Métro: Pont Marie. **Amenities:** Room service; laundry service; dry cleaning; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, safe.

Hôtel du Bourg Tibourg *Finds* Don't come here expecting large rooms with lots of elbow room: What you get is a sophisticated and supercharged color palette, a sense of high-profile design, and a deliberately cluttered venue that looks like an Edwardian town house decorated by an obsessive-compulsive individual on psychedelic drugs. It is set behind an uncomplicated, cream-colored facade in the Marais and marked only with a discreet brass plaque and a pair of carriage lamps. Its rooms have been radically overhauled by superstar decorator Jacques Garcia. Bedrooms are genuinely tiny, but rich with neo-romantic, neo-Gothic, and in some cases neo-Venetian swirls and curlicues. Each is quirky, idiosyncratic, richly upholstered, and supercharged with tassels, faux leopard skin, contrasting stripes, fringes, and lavish window treatments. Rooms facing the front get more sunlight; rooms facing the courtyard tend to be quieter.

19 rue du Bourg-Tibourg, 75004 Paris. ✆ **01-42-78-47-39.** Fax 01-40-29-07-00. www.hotelbourgtibourg.com. 30 units. 220€–250€ ($319–$363) double; 350€ ($508) suite. AE, DC, MC, V. Parking 26€ ($38). Métro: Hôtel de Ville. **Amenities:** Room service; laundry service. *In room:* A/C, TV, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

Hôtel du Jeu de Paume This small-scale hotel encompasses a pair of 17th-century town houses accessible through a timbered passageway from the street outside. The rooms are a bit larger than those of some nearby competitors. Originally, the hotel was a clubhouse used by members of the court of Louis XIII, who amused themselves with *les jeux de paume* (an early form of tennis) nearby. Public areas are outfitted in a simple version of Art Deco. Guest rooms are freshly decorated in sleek contemporary style, with elegant materials such as oaken floors and fine craftsmanship. Some have wooden beamed ceilings. The most luxurious units are the five duplexes and two junior suites, each individually decorated and opening onto an indoor courtyard.

54 rue St-Louis en l'Ile, 75004 Paris. ✆ **01-43-26-14-18.** Fax 01-40-46-02-76. www.jeudepaumehotel.com. 30 units. 275€–350€ ($399–$508) double; 395€–545€ ($573–$790) suite. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Pont Marie. **Amenities:** Bar; gym; sauna; room service; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* TV, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

Hôtel Saint-Louis *Value* Proprietors Guy and Andrée Record maintain a charming family atmosphere at this antiques-filled hotel in a 17th-century town house. The hotel represents an incredible value, considering its prime location on Ile St-Louis. Expect cozy, slightly cramped rooms, each with a small bathroom containing a tub/shower

combination. With mansard roofs and old-fashioned moldings, the top-floor units sport tiny balconies that afford sweeping views. The breakfast room is in the cellar, which has 17th-century stone vaulting.

75 rue St-Louis-en-l'Ile, 75004 Paris. ✆ **01-46-34-04-80.** Fax 01-46-34-02-13. 19 units. 145€–260€ ($210–$377) double. MC, V. Métro: Pont Marie or St-Michel-Notre-Dame. **Amenities:** Babysitting. *In room:* TV, hair dryer, safe.

INEXPENSIVE

Hôtel de la Place des Vosges ★ *Value* Built about 350 years ago, during the same era as the majestic square for which it's named (a 2-min. walk away), this is a well-managed, small-scale property with reasonable prices and lots of charm. The structure was once used as a stable for the mules of Henri IV. Many of the small guest rooms have beamed ceilings; small TVs hanging from the ceiling; and a sense of cozy, well-ordered efficiency. The most desirable and expensive room is top-floor no. 60, overlooking the rooftops of Paris, with a luxurious private bathroom. Patches of chiseled stone in various parts of the hotel add a decorative touch.

12 rue de Birague, 75004 Paris. ✆ **01-42-72-60-46.** Fax 01-42-72-02-64. www.hotelplacedesvosges.com. 16 units. 120€–150€ ($174–$218) double. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Bastille. **Amenities:** Room service; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* TV, hair dryer, safe.

Hôtel du 7e Art The hotel occupies one of many 17th-century buildings classified as historic monuments in this neighborhood. Don't expect grand luxury: Rooms are cramped and outfitted with the simplest furniture, relieved by 1950s-era movie posters. Each has white walls, and some of them—including those under the sloping mansard-style roof—have exposed ceiling beams. The five-story building has a lobby bar and a breakfast room but no elevator. The "7th Art" is a reference to filmmaking.

20 rue St-Paul, 75004 Paris. ✆ **01-44-54-85-00.** Fax 01-42-77-69-10. www.paris-hotel-7art.com. 23 units. 85€–145€ ($123–$210) double. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: St-Paul. **Amenities:** Bar; coin-operated laundry. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, safe.

11TH ARRONDISSEMENT (OPERA BASTILLE)

INEXPENSIVE

Hotel Croix de Malte A member of a nationwide chain of government-rated two-star hotels, this is a well-maintained lodging choice. The hotel consists of two buildings of two and three floors, one of which is accessible through a shared breakfast room. There's a landscaped courtyard in back with access to a lobby bar. The cozy guest rooms contain brightly painted modern furniture accented

with vivid green, blue, and pink patterns that flash back to the 1960s.

5 rue de Malte, 75011 Paris. ✆ **01-48-05-09-36.** Fax 01-43-57-02-54. www.hotelcroixdemalte-paris.com. 29 units. 80€–105€ ($116–$152) double. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Oberkampf. **Amenities:** Bar; room service (breakfast); babysitting. *In room:* TV, Wi-Fi, hair dryer.

Résidence Alhambra Named for the famous cabaret/vaudeville theater that once stood nearby, the Alhambra dates from the 1800s. A radical renovation in 2002 gave the hotel its fine contemporary format. In the rear garden, where breakfast is served, its two-story chalet offers eight additional guest rooms. The small accommodations are bland but comfortable, each in a dull pastel scheme that includes white and ocher.

13 rue de Malte, 75011 Paris. ✆ **01-47-00-35-52.** Fax 01-43-57-98-75. www.hotelalhambra.fr. 58 units. 71€–84€ ($103–$122) double; 96€–116€ ($139–$168) triple. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Oberkampf. **Amenities:** Garden. *In room:* TV, Wi-Fi.

12TH ARRONDISSEMENT (BOIS DE VINCENNES/ GARE DE LYON)

MODERATE

Hôtel Pavillon Bastille This is a bold, innovative hotel in a town house across from the Opéra Bastille, a block south of place de la Bastille. It was completely renovated in 2007. A 17th-century fountain graces the courtyard. The guest rooms have twin or double beds, partially mirrored walls, and contemporary built-in furniture.

65 rue de Lyon, 75012 Paris. ✆ **01-43-43-65-65.** Fax 01-43-43-96-52. www.paris-hotel-pavillonbastille.com. 25 units. 170€–195€ ($247–$283) double; 213€ ($309) suite. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Bastille. **Amenities:** Bar; room service; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, Wi-Fi, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

INEXPENSIVE

Grand Hotel Dore Deep in the heart of the Daumesnil area, this venerated old hotel has been a Paris tradition since the early 20th century. Today it's been brought into the 21st century with a major restoration and vast improvements, so that once again it is a hotel of charm and character. Some of the past remains visible here, architecturally, but the hotel has been completely modernized. The bedrooms are small to midsize, but each is comfortably furnished and well maintained, and the bathroom plumbing has been renewed.

201 av. Daumesnil, 75012 Paris. ✆ **01-43-43-66-89.** Fax 01-43-43-65-20. www.grand-hotel-dore.com. 40 units. 98€–115€ ($142–$167) double. AE, MC, V. Métro: Daumesnil. **Amenities:** Lounge with Internet. *In room:* A/C, TV, Wi-Fi, minibar, safe.

18TH ARRONDISSEMENT (MONTMARTRE)

EXPENSIVE

Kube Rooms & Bars ✪ *(Finds* Design-savvy clients appreciate the way the architect (in-the-news Raymond Morel) made repeated use of the cube, a form that the owners refer to as "the most modern of shapes." It occupies the six-story premises of what was built in the late 1800s as the administrative headquarters of a now-defunct brewery *(Les bières de la Meuse),* which these writers remember from beer fests of yesteryear. There's a restaurant and a dance lounge on street level, where a DJ spins tunes. Bedrooms (and everything else about the place) seem to revel in the concept of the rectangular cube. Rectangular beds are lit from below and appear to float. Expect shag-covered sofas, fuzzy faux-fur slippers in tones of high-voltage yellow, and a sense of compact efficiency. On the premises is the Ice Kube Bar, a deep-cooled conversational oddity whose bartop is fashioned from—you guessed it—ice.

3–5 Passage Ruelle, 75018 Paris. ✆ **01-42-05-20-00.** Fax 01-42-05-21-01. www.kubehotel.com. 41 units. 300€–400€ ($435–$580) double; 500€–750€ ($725–$1,088) suite. Parking 30€ ($44). AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: La Chapelle. **Amenities:** Restaurant; bar/lounge with a DJ several nights a week; fitness center; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, Wi-Fi, hair dryer, safe.

INEXPENSIVE

Premium Hotel Montmartre ✪ In artistic Montmartre, between Sacré-Coeur and the fabled nightclub, the Moulin Rouge, this hotel was created from a former dormitory for Moulin Rouge dancers. As you might expect, the rooms are small but they are comfortably furnished with country-style curtains and bedspreads. Opt for one of the four bedrooms on the sixth floor if you'd like the best views. Elevator doors are painted with cancan dancers, and the original stone walls in the lobby and breakfast room are decorated with paintings of the budding Picasso of tomorrow. As night falls, the district is filled with a lot of sex workers of both sexes.

5 rue Tholozé, 75018 Paris. ✆ **01-46-06-30-52.** www.arts-hotel-paris.com. 50 units. 85€–165€ ($123–$239) double. AE, MC, V. Métro: Blanche. **Amenities:** Breakfast room; room service; laundry service. *In room:* TV, Wi-Fi, hair dryer, safe.

8TH ARRONDISSEMENT (CHAMPS-ELYSEES/ MADELEINE)

VERY EXPENSIVE

Four Seasons Hotel George V ✪✪✪ *(Kids* In its latest reincarnation, with all its glitz and glamour, this hotel is one of the best in the world. The George V opened in 1928 in honor of George V of

England, grandfather of Queen Elizabeth. During the liberation of Paris, it housed Dwight D. Eisenhower. The guest rooms are about as close as you'll come to residency in a well-upholstered private home where teams of decorators have lavished vast amounts of attention and money. The beds rival those at the Ritz and Meurice in comfort. The largest units are magnificent; the smallest are, in the words of a spokesperson, *"trés agreeable."* Security is tight—a fact appreciated by sometimes-notorious guests. The staff pampers children with bathrobes and bedtime milk and cookies.

31 av. George V, 75008 Paris. ✆ **800/332-3442** in the U.S. and Canada, or 01-49-52-70-00. Fax 01-49-52-70-10. www.fourseasons.com. 245 units. 730€–995€ ($1,059–$1,443) double; from 1,350€ ($1,958) suite. AE, DC, MC, V. Parking 40€ ($58). Métro: George V. **Amenities:** 2 restaurants; 2 lounges; indoor pool; fitness center; spa; sauna; room service; massage; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning; nonsmoking rooms; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, Wi-Fi, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

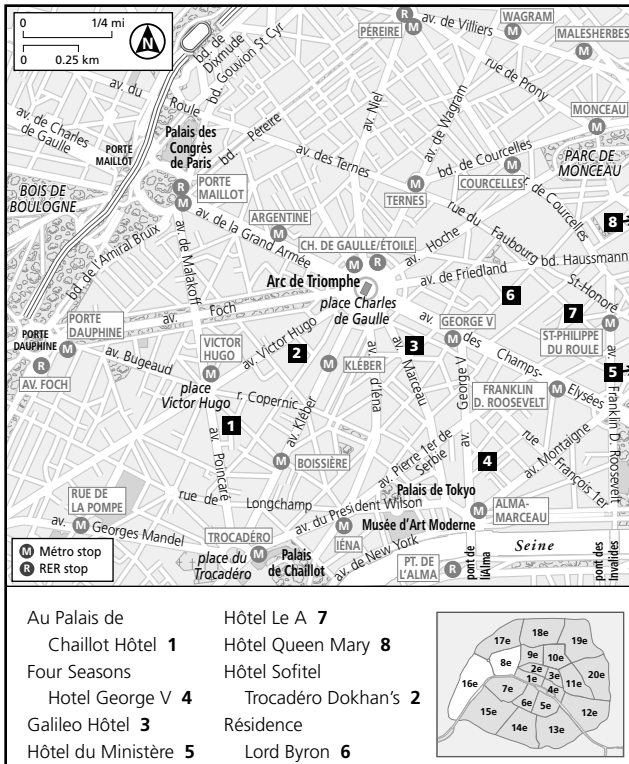
EXPENSIVE

Hotel Le A ★ Lying only 2 blocks from the Champs-Elysées, this town house has been converted to an elegant enclave. It's true the rooms are a bit small—the staff refers to them as cozy—but the overall comfort may still entice your soul. Decorations in the lobby, hall, and bar were by artist Fabrice Hybert, who also painted one unique work for each guest room. The abstract paintings are both modern and figurative. A spacious lounge with a library is filled with books on art and design. Walls are painted with bold abstractions. The hotel bar, under a 19th-century glass roof, with a tasteful black and white decor, has become a favorite rendezvous spot with the fashionistas of the era. Rooms represent supreme comfort with adjustable lights, electronic blinds, and other modern amenities. The elevator ceiling that changes color every few seconds is a bit much.

4 rue d'Artois, 75008 Paris. ✆ **01-42-56-99-99.** Fax 01-42-56-99-90. www.paris-selection.com. 26 units. 363€ ($526) double, 497€ ($721) junior suite. Rates include continental breakfast. AE, DC, MC, V. Parking 25€ ($36). **Amenities:** Lounge; bar; laundry service; nonsmoking rooms; library. *In room:* A/C, TV, Wi-Fi, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

MODERATE

Galileo Hotel ★ *Finds* This is one of the 8th's most charming hotels. Proprietors Roland and Elisabeth Buffat have won friends from all over with their Hôtel des Deux-Iles and Hôtel de Lutèce on St-Louis-en-l'Ile (see earlier in this chapter). A short walk from the Champs-Elysées, this town house is the epitome of French elegance and charm. The medium-size rooms are a study in understated taste.



Au Palais de Chaillot Hôtel **1**
Four Seasons Hotel George V **4**
Galileo Hôtel **3**
Hôtel du Ministère **5**
Hôtel Le A **7**
Hôtel Queen Mary **8**
Hôtel Sofitel Trocadéro Dokhan's **2**
Résidence Lord Byron **6**

Within this hotel, rooms with numbers ending in 3 (specifically, 103, 203, 303, 403, and 503) are more spacious than the others. Rooms 501 and 502 have private glassed-in verandas that you can use even in winter.

54 rue Galilée, 75008 Paris. ✆ **01-47-20-66-06.** Fax 01-47-20-67-17. www.galileo-paris-hotel.com. 27 units. 185€ ($268) double. AE, DC, MC, V. Parking 23€ ($33). Métro: Charles-de-Gaulle–Etoile or George V. **Amenities:** Laundry service; dry cleaning; 1 room for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

Hôtel du Ministère ★ The Ministère is a winning choice near the Champs-Elysées, though it's far from Paris's cheapest budget hotel. The guest rooms are on the small side, but they are comfortable and well maintained; many have oak beams and fine furnishings. Avoid rooms on the top floor, which are cramped. Each unit's

bathroom holds a tub/shower combination. Junior suites are only slightly larger than regular doubles, but the extra space may be worth the money.

31 rue de Surène, 75008 Paris. ✆ **01-42-66-21-43.** Fax 01-42-66-96-04. www.ministerehotel.com. 28 units. 199€–239€ ($289–$347) double. AE, MC, V. Métro: Madeleine. **Amenities:** Bar; room service; laundry service; dry cleaning; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

Hôtel Queen Mary ★ Meticulously renovated inside and out, this early 1900s hotel has an iron-and-glass canopy, wrought iron, and the kind of detailing normally reserved for more expensive hotels. The public rooms have touches of greenery and reproductions of antiques; guest rooms contain upholstered headboards, comfortable beds, and mahogany furnishings, plus a carafe of sherry. Suites and triples are slightly more spacious than regular doubles and are beautifully furnished.

9 rue Greffulhe, 75008 Paris. ✆ **01-42-66-40-50.** Fax 01-42-66-94-92. www.hotelqueenmary.com. 36 units. 189€–219€ ($274–$318) double; 299€ ($434) triple. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Madeleine or Havre-Caumartin. **Amenities:** Bar; room service; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

Résidence Lord Byron *Kids* Off the Champs-Elysées on a curving street of handsome buildings, the Lord Byron may not be as grand as other hotels in the neighborhood, but it's more affordable. Unassuming and a bit staid, it offers exactly what repeat guests want: a sense of luxury, solitude, and understatement. It's a fine choice for families, who often book suites for the larger living space. You can eat breakfast in the dining room or in the shaded inner garden.

5 rue Chateaubriand, 75008 Paris. ✆ **01-43-59-89-98.** Fax 01-42-89-46-04. www.escapade-paris.com. 31 units. 114€–210€ ($165–$305) double; 280€ ($406) suite. AE, DC, MC, V. Parking 20€ ($29). Métro: George V. RER: Etoile. **Amenities:** Room service; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

16TH ARRONDISSEMENT (TROCADERO/ BOIS DE BOULOGNE)

VERY EXPENSIVE

Hôtel Sofitel Trocadéro Dokhan's ★★ If not for the porters walking through its public areas carrying luggage, you might suspect that this well-accessorized hotel was a private home. It's in a stately, 19th-century Haussmann-styled building vaguely inspired by Palladio and contains accessories such as antique paneling, Regency-era armchairs, and chandeliers. Each guest room has a different decorative style, with antiques or good reproductions, lots of personalized touches and triple-glazed windows. Beds are often antique reproductions with

maximum comfort. Suites have a larger living space and spacious bathrooms with such extras as make-up mirrors and luxe toiletries.

117 rue Lauriston, 75116 Paris. ✆ **01-53-65-66-99.** Fax 01-53-65-66-88. www.sofitel.com. 45 units. 220€–450€ ($319–$653) double; from 850€ ($1,233) suite. AE, DC, MC, V. Parking 30€ ($44). Métro: Trocadéro. **Amenities:** Champagne bar; room service; massage; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, fax, Wi-Fi, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

INEXPENSIVE

Au Palais de Chaillot Hôtel When American-trained brothers Thierry and Cyrille Pien opened this hotel, budget travelers flocked here. Located between the Champs-Elysées and Trocadéro, the town house was restored from top to bottom, and the result is a contemporary yet informal variation on Parisian chic. The guest rooms come in various shapes and sizes, and are furnished with a light touch, with bright colors and wicker. Rooms 61, 62, and 63 afford partial views of the Eiffel Tower.

35 av. Raymond-Poincaré, 75016 Paris. ✆ **01-53-70-09-09.** Fax 01-53-70-09-08. www.chaillotel.com. 28 units. 129€–149€ ($187–$216) double; 179€ ($260) junior suite; 20€ ($29) extra bed. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Victor Hugo or Trocadéro. **Amenities:** Room service; laundry service. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, safe.

2 On the Left Bank

We'll begin with the most centrally located arrondissements on the Left Bank and then work our way through the more outlying neighborhoods and to the area near the Eiffel Tower.

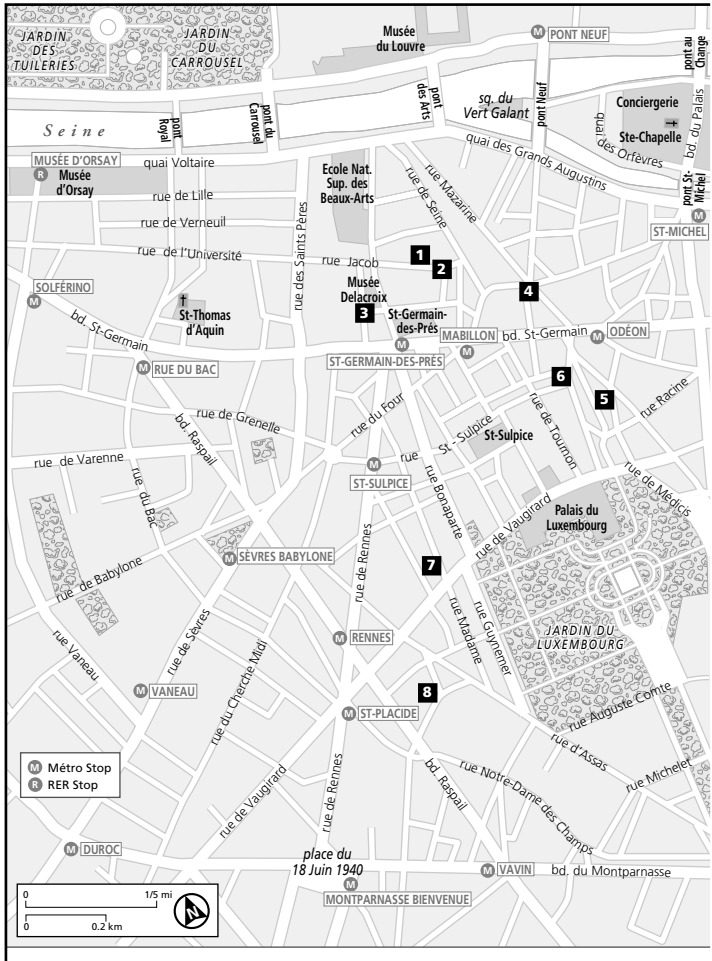
5TH ARRONDISSEMENT (QUARTIER LATIN)

MODERATE

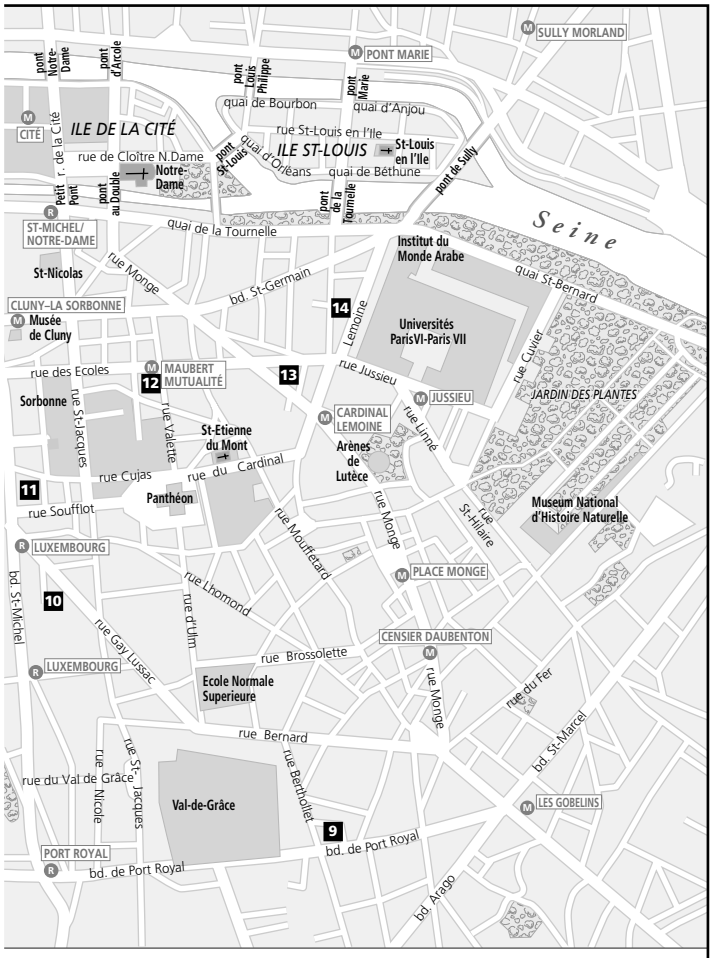
The Five Hotel ★ *Finds* A charmer among Left Bank boutique hotels, The Five is named for the 5th arrondissement (Latin Quarter) and lies in a restored 1800s town house on a U-shaped street off boulevard de Port-Royal. The interior design is not to everyone's taste, including a red leather paneled hall or a red-painted gas fireplace. The rooms are individually designed in various colors (blood red or Halloween orange, for example), and tiny white lights evoke a planetarium. Of course, if you want a room the color of a prune, that too is available. A Chinese lacquer artist, Isabelle Emmerique, has certainly been busy here. Some rooms are for midgets, but all the beds are exceedingly comfortable.

3 rue Flatters, 75005 Paris. ✆ **01-43-31-74-21.** www.thefivehotel.com. 24 units. 220€–310€ ($319–$450) double, 360€ ($522) suite. AE, MC, V. Métro: Bastilel or Gobelins. **Amenities:** Laundry service; room service; wheelchair access; luggage room. *In room:* A/C, TV, Wi-Fi, hair dryer.

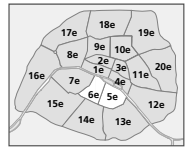
Hotels in the Heart of the Left Bank



Familia-Hôtel **13**
The Five Hotel **9**
Grand Hôtel des Balcons **5**
Grand Hôtel St-Michel **11**
Hôtel Bel-Ami **3**
Hôtel de Fleurie **4**
Hôtel des Deux Continents **2**
Hôtel des Grandes Ecoles **14**
Hôtel des Jardins du Luxembourg **10**



Hôtel des Marronniers **1**
Hôtel Le Sainte-Beuve **8**
Hôtel Moderne Saint-Germain **12**
Odéon Hôtel **6**
Regent's Hôtel **7**



Grand Hôtel Saint-Michel Built in the 19th century, this hotel is larger and more businesslike than many town house–style inns nearby. It basks in the reflected glow of Brazilian dissident Georges Amado, whose memoirs recorded his 2-year sojourn in one of the rooms. The public areas are tasteful, with portraits and rich upholsteries. Improvements have enlarged some rooms, lowering their ceilings and adding amenities, but retained old-fashioned touches such as wrought-iron balconies (on the fifth floor). Triple rooms have an extra bed and are suitable for families, who share a private bathroom with tub and shower. Sixth-floor rooms have views over the rooftops.

19 rue Cujas, 75005 Paris. ✆ **01-46-33-33-02.** Fax 01-40-46-96-33. www.grand-hotel-st-michel.com. 45 units. 170€–200€ ($247–$290) double; 180€–250€ ($261–$363) triple. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Cluny–La Sorbonne. RER: Luxembourg or St-Michel. **Amenities:** Bar; room service; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

Hôtel des Jardins du Luxembourg Built during Baron Haussmann's 19th-century overhaul of Paris, this hotel boasts an imposing facade of honey-colored stone accented with ornate iron balconies. Sigmund Freud stayed here in 1885. The interior is outfitted in strong, clean lines, often with groupings of Art Deco furnishings. The high-ceilinged guest rooms, some with Provençal tiles and ornate moldings, are well maintained, the sizes ranging from small to medium. Best of all, they overlook a quiet dead-end alley, ensuring relatively peaceful nights. Some have balconies overlooking the rooftops. Ongoing renovations have kept the bedrooms spiffy.

5 Impasse Royer-Collard, 75005 Paris. ✆ **01-40-46-08-88.** Fax 01-40-46-02-28. www.les-jardins-du-luxembourg.com. 26 units. 142€–152€ ($206–$220) double. AE, DC, MC, V. Parking 18€ ($26). RER: Luxembourg. **Amenities:** Bar; sauna; room service; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning; nonsmoking rooms; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, Wi-Fi, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

INEXPENSIVE

Familia-Hôtel As the name implies, this hotel has been family run for decades. Many personal touches make the place unique. Finely executed sepia-colored frescoes of Parisian scenes grace the walls of 14 rooms. Eight units have restored stone walls, and seven boast balconies with delightful views over the Latin Quarter. The dynamic owners renovate the rooms as often as needed to maintain the highest level of comfort.

11 rue des Ecoles, 75005 Paris. ✆ **01-43-54-55-27.** Fax 01-43-29-61-77. www.hotel-paris-familia.com. 30 units. 99€–129€ ($144–$187) double; 167€ ($242) triple; 179€ ($260) quad. AE, DC, MC, V. Parking 20€ ($29). Métro: Jussieu or Maubert-Mutualité. **Amenities:** Car rental; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* TV, minibar, hair dryer.

Hôtel des Grandes Ecoles *Value* Few hotels in the neighborhood offer so much low-key charm at such reasonable prices. It's composed of a trio of high-ceilinged buildings, interconnected via a sheltered courtyard, where in warm weather, singing birds provide a worthy substitute for the TVs deliberately missing from the rooms. Accommodations, as reflected by the price, range from snug, cozy doubles to more spacious chambers. Each room is comfortable, but with a lot of luggage, the very smallest would be cramped. The decor is old-fashioned, with feminine touches such as flowered upholsteries and ruffles. Many have views of a garden where trellises and flower beds evoke the countryside.

75 rue de Cardinal-Lemoine, 75005 Paris. ✆ **01-43-26-79-23.** Fax 01-43-25-28-15. www.hotel-grandes-ecoles.com. 51 units. 113€–138€ ($164–$200) double. Extra bed 20€ ($29). MC, V. Parking 30€ ($44). Métro: Cardinal Lemoine, Jussieu, or Monge. RER: Port-Royal or Luxembourg. **Amenities:** Room service; babysitting; nonsmoking rooms; garden; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* Hair dryer, Wi-Fi.

Hôtel Moderne Saint-Germain ★ In the heart of the Latin Quarter, between the Pantheon and Saint-Michel, the Hôtel Moderne is better than ever since it ended the 20th century with a complete overhaul. Though the rooms are small, this is still one of the neighborhood's better three-star hotels. Its charming owner, Mme Gibon, welcomes guests to her spotless accommodations. In the units fronting rue des Ecoles, double-glazed windows hush the traffic. Guests can use the sauna and Jacuzzi at the Hôtel Sully next door.

33 rue des Ecoles, 75005 Paris. ✆ **01-43-54-37-78.** Fax 01-43-29-91-31. www.hotel-paris-stgermain.com. 45 units. 150€ ($218) double; 180€ ($261) triple. AE, DC, MC, V. Parking 26€ ($38). Métro: Maubert-Mutualité. **Amenities:** Fitness center; room service; laundry service; dry cleaning; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer.

6TH ARRONDISSEMENT (ST-GERMAIN/LUXEMBOURG)

VERY EXPENSIVE

Hotel Bel-Ami ★ *Finds* Until 2002, this was a simple government-rated, three-star hotel that was known by a different name (L'Alliance St-Germain). Beginning at that time, the hotel was restored, floor by floor, to this four-star hotel, designed to appeal to fashion-conscious patrons in the heart of the Left Bank cafe district. Its name translates as "handsome (male) friend." You'll get the feeling that this is an arts-conscious hotel whose minimalist public areas were built only after months of careful design by a team of trend-following architects. Expect color schemes of lilac walls, acid-green sofas, copper-colored tiles, bleached ash, and industrial-style lighting fixtures.

Bedrooms contain a palette of earth tones, such as pistachio ice cream or pumpkin pie, and an almost aggressively minimalist, even cubist, design. Bathrooms are artfully spartan. The hip and well-meaning staff sometimes gets overwhelmed by the ego-driven needs of demanding clients.

7–11 rue St. Benoît, 75006 Paris. ✆ **01-42-61-53-53.** Fax 01-49-27-09-33. www.hotel-bel-ami.com. 115 units. 380€–550€ ($551–$798) double; 490€–620€ ($711–$899) suite. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: St-Germain-des-Prés. **Amenities:** Bar; espresso bar; fitness center; room service; laundry service; dry cleaning; computer workstations with Internet access (in lobby). *In room:* TV, minibar, safe.

EXPENSIVE

Hôtel de Fleurie ★ *Kids* Off the boulevard St-Germain on a colorful little street, the Fleurie is one of the best of the city's "new" old hotels; its statuary-studded facade recaptures 17th-century elegance, and the stone walls in the salon have been exposed. Many of the guest rooms have elaborate draperies and antique reproductions. All the bedrooms were renovated early in the millennium. Because some rooms are larger than others and contain an extra bed for children, the hotel has long been a family favorite.

32–34 rue Grégoire-de-Tours, 75006 Paris. ✆ **01-53-73-70-00.** Fax 01-53-73-70-20. www.fleurie-hotel-paris.com. 29 units. 195€–320€ ($283–$464) double; 395€ ($573) family room. Children younger than 13 stay free in parent's room. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Odéon or Mabillon. **Amenities:** Bar; car rental; room service; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* A/C, TV, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

Hôtel Le Sainte-Beuve ★ *Finds* Lying off the tree-lined boulevard Raspail, this Montparnasse choice is close to the "Lost Generation" cafes made famous in the pages of Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises.* The famous English decorator, David Hicks, had a hand in the stylish decor. If you stay here, you're just 3 minutes from the Luxembourg Gardens. You enter a small reception area opening into a Georgian parlor with plush sofas, armchairs, columns, and even a marble fireplace for those nippy Paris nights. Bedrooms are often furnished in part with antiques, but have all the modern comforts. The cheaper rooms are small. If you can afford it, ask for one of the deluxe units that also have love seats and safes.

9 rue Ste-Beuve, 75006 Paris. ✆ **01-45-48-20-07.** Fax 01-45-48-67-52. www.hotel-sainte-beuve.fr. 22 units. 170€–295€ ($247–$428) double; 345€ ($500) junior suite. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Notre-Dame-des-Champs or Vavin. **Amenities:** Bar; room service; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, Wi-Fi, minibar, hair dryer, safe (in some).

Odéon Hôtel ★ Reminiscent of a modernized Norman country inn, the Odéon has such rustic touches as exposed beams, stone walls, high ceilings, and tapestries mixed with contemporary fabrics, mirrored ceilings, and black leather furnishings. Near the Théâtre de l'Odéon and boulevard St-Germain, the Odéon stands on the first street in Paris to have pavements (ca. 1779). By the 20th century, this area began attracting such writers as Gertrude Stein. The guest rooms are small to medium in size and well furnished. The beds are excellent, with reading lamps and bedside controls.

3 rue de l'Odéon, 75006 Paris. ✆ **01-43-25-90-67.** Fax 01-43-25-55-98. www.odeonhotel.fr. 33 units. 180€–270€ ($261–$392) double. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Odéon. **Amenities:** Bar; room service; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, hair dryer, safe.

MODERATE

Hôtel des Deux Continents Built from three interconnected historic buildings, each between three and six stories high, this hotel is a reliable choice with a sense of Latin Quarter style. The carefully coordinated guest rooms range from small to medium size and include reproductions of antique furnishings and soundproof, upholstered walls.

25 rue Jacob, 75006 Paris. ✆ **01-43-26-72-46.** Fax 01-43-25-67-80. www.2continents-hotel.com. 41 units. 152€–185€ ($220–$268) double; 215€ ($312) triple. MC, V. Métro: St-Germain-des-Prés. *In room:* A/C, TV, Wi-Fi, hair dryer.

Hotel des Marronniers ★ *Finds* In the heart of St-Germain-des-Prés, this is one of those hidden gems that is nestled in the back of a courtyard on a street lined with antique stores. At the rear of this "secret" address is a small garden with a veranda, where you can linger over afternoon tea. Some of the rooms open onto views of the steeple of the church of St-Germain-des-Prés. For one of the rooms, book well in advance. The midsize bedrooms are furnished with period pieces placed under exposed beams and enveloped by fabric-covered walls in rich tones.

21 rue Jacob, 75006 Paris. ✆ **01-43-25-30-60.** Fax 01-40-46-83-56. www.hotel-marronniers.com. 37 units. 161€–176€ ($233–$255) double. MC, V. Métro: St-Germain-des-Prés. **Amenities:** Breakfast room. *In room:* A/C, TV, Wi-Fi, hair dryer, safe.

INEXPENSIVE

Grand Hotel des Balcons ★ *Value* The Corroyer-André family welcome you to this restored 19th-century building, once patronized by Baudelaire and the poets Henri Michaux and Endré Ady. You enter an Art Nouveau setting with stained-glass windows and tulip-shaped molten glass lamps and chandeliers. The hotel lies behind a restored

facade studded with small balconies—hence, its name. Bedrooms are not only affordable, but harmonious in decor and big on comfort and good maintenance. Close to the gardens of Luxembourg, the rooms are not large but ample enough for big closets and full-length dressing mirrors.

3 Casimir Delavigne, 75006 Paris. ✆ **01-46-34-78-50.** www.balcons.com. 50 units. 110€ ($160) double. AE, MC, V. Métro: Odéon. RER: Luxembourg. **Amenities:** Breakfast room. *In room:* TV, Wi-Fi, hair dryer.

Regent's Hôtel *Value* In the heart of St-Germain-des-Prés, this is a smart Left Bank address. This hotel is in a neighborhood of tony boutiques and fashionable hair salons, just a short walk from the Jardin du Luxembourg, where Hemingway strolled as a poor struggling artist looking for pigeons to kill for his dinner. This is a high-quality choice at reasonable prices, considering its location. Inside, carved-wood headboards, fluffy bedspreads, and flower boxes in the windows evoke sunny Provence. We prefer the rooms on the top floor, with their slender balconies overlooking Paris rooftops. Some rooms open onto a secluded courtyard where breakfast is served if the weather behaves. A few rooms are big enough to accommodate a family of four.

44 rue Madame, 75006 Paris. ✆ **01-45-48-02-81.** Fax 01-45-44-85-73. www.france-hotel-guide.com. 34 units. 80€–200€ ($116–$290) double. AE, MC, V. Métro: Rennes or St-Sulpice. RER: Luxembourg. **Amenities:** Car rental; room service; babysitting; rooms for those w/limited mobility. *In room:* TV, hair dryer, safe.

7TH ARRONDISSEMENT (EIFFEL TOWER/ MUSEE D'ORSAY)

EXPENSIVE

Bourgogne & Montana Across from the Palais Bourbon and just 2 blocks from the Seine, this boutique hotel resides in the same tony neighborhood as famous Parisian residents such as Karl Lagerfeld. It is only a short walk to the landmark place du Palais-Bourbon and the boulevard St-Germain. A six-floor hotel, the building itself dates from 1791. Two of the bedrooms open onto the Grand Palais or the Assemblée Nationale. A 1924 cage elevator takes visitors to the accommodations, which are midsize for the most part, although some are small and have no view. Each room is individually decorated, often in Empire style or with Empire reproductions.

3 rue de Bourgogne, 75007 Paris. ✆ **01-45-51-20-22.** Fax 01-45-56-11-98. www.bourgogne-montana.com. 32 units. 200€–280€ ($290–$406) double; 340€ ($493) junior suite. Rates include breakfast. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Invalides. **Amenities:** Bar; room service; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C, TV, Wi-Fi, minibar, hair dryer.

Bourgogne & Montana 3
Derby Eiffel 2
Hôtel á l'Eiffel
Rive Gauche 1
Hôtel de l'Académie 7
Hôtel de l'Université 6
Hôtel de Nevers 8
Hôtel du Quai-Voltaire 5
Hôtel Verneuil 4
16e
8e
1er
6e
15e
Seine
pont de l'Alma
pont des Invalides
pont Alexandre III
pont de la Concorde
pont Solférino
pont Royal
pont du Carrousel
pont d'Iéna
Tour Eiffel
Palais Bourbon
Musée d'Orsay
Hôtel des Invalides
Musée Rodin
Ecole Militaire
ALMA-MARCEAU
INVALIDES
ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE
MUSEE D'ORSAY
SOLFERINO
RUE DU BAC
VARENNE
LATOUR MAUBOURG
SEVRES BABYLONE
VANEAU
DUROC
SEGUR
LA MOTTE PICQUET
GRENELLE
CAMBRONNE
SEVRES-LECOURBE
DUPLEIX
quai d'Orsay
quai Anatole France
quai Voltaire
bd. St-Germain
bd. Raspail
bd. des Invalides
bd. de La Tour Maubourg
av. de Breteuil
av. de Suffren
av. de la Bourdonnais
av. Rapp
av. Bosquet
av. de Lowendal
av. de Ségur
av. de Saxe
av. de Tourville
av. de Villars
av. de la Motte Picquet
rue du Laos
rue de la Fédération
rue de Grenelle
rue St-Dominique
rue de Bellechasse
rue de Bourgogne
rue de Varenne
rue du Bac
rue de Babylone
rue Vaneau
rue de Sèvres
rue du Four
rue de Lille
rue de l'Université
rue de Solférino
rue de l'Exposition
rue du Champ de Mars
rue Oudinot
rue des Saints Pères
r. Surcouf
r. de l'Université
r. Fabert
place des Invalides
place Vauban
place de l'Ecole Militaire
place de Fontenoy
place Joffre
place Jacques Rueff
PARC DU CHAMP DE MARS
JARDIN DE L'INTENDANT
JARDIN DE BABYLONE
ESPLANADE DES INVALIDES
square Boucicaut
square Chaltje Récamier
ST-FRANÇOIS XAVIER
Post Office
Church
Métro
0
1/4 mi
0.25 km

Hôtel de l'Académie ★★ The exterior walls and old ceiling beams are all that remain of this 18th-century residence of the duc de Rohan's private guards. Other than its Renaissance origins and associations with the duc de Rohan, this place is locally famous for having housed poet and novelist Antonio Marchado, "the Victor Hugo of Spain," between 1909 and 1914. Guest rooms have a lush Ile-de-France decor and views over the neighborhood's 18th- and 19th-century buildings. By American standards, the rooms are small, but they're average for Paris.

32 rue des Sts-Pères, 75007 Paris. ✆ **800/246-0041** in the U.S. and Canada, or 01-45-49-80-00. Fax 01-45-44-75-24. www.academiehotel.com. 33 units. 199€–229€ ($289–$332) double; 299€ ($434) junior suite. AE, DC, MC, V. Parking 23€ ($33). Métro: St-Germain-des-Prés. **Amenities:** Room service; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, Wi-Fi, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

Hôtel de l'Université ★ Long favored by well-heeled parents of North American students studying in Paris, this 300-year-old, antiques-filled town house enjoys a location in a discreetly upscale neighborhood. Room no. 54 is a favorite, containing a rattan bed, period pieces, and a terrace. Another charmer is room no. 35, which has a nonworking fireplace and opens onto a courtyard with a fountain. Beds have plush comfort and discreet French styling. You'll sleep well here.

22 rue de l'Université, 75007 Paris. ✆ **01-42-61-09-39.** Fax 01-42-60-40-84. www.hoteluniversite.com. 27 units. 170€–180€ ($247–$261) double. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: St-Germain-des-Prés. **Amenities:** Room service. *In room:* A/C, TV, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

Hôtel Verneuil ★ *Finds* Small-scale and personal, this hotel, in the words of a recent critic, "combines modernist sympathies with nostalgia for *la vieille France* [old-fashioned France]." Built in the 1600s as a town house, it is a creative and intimate jumble of charm and coziness inside. Expect a mixture of antique and contemporary furniture; lots of books; and, in the bedrooms, *trompe l'oeil* ceilings, antique beams, quilts, and walls covered in fabric that comes in a rainbow of colors.

8 rue de Verneuil, 75007 Paris. ✆ **01-42-60-82-14.** Fax 01-42-61-40-38. www.hotelverneuil.com. 26 units. 163€–210€ ($236–$305) double. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: St-Germain-des-Prés. **Amenities:** Bar; room service; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning. *In room:* A/C (in some), TV, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

MODERATE

Derby Eiffel This hotel faces the Ecole Militaire and contains airy public areas. Our favorite is a glass-roofed conservatory in back,

filled year-round with plants and used as a breakfast area. The soundproof and modern guest rooms employ thick fabrics and soothing neutral colors. Most front-facing rooms have views of the Eiffel Tower. In 1998, enormous sums were spent upgrading the rooms and bathrooms and improving the hotel's interior aesthetics, and renovations have been going on ever since. All bathrooms have showers and half-tubs.

5 av. Duquesne, 75007 Paris. ✆ **01-47-05-12-05.** Fax 01-47-05-43-43. www.hotelsderby.com. 43 units. 135€–180€ ($196–$261) double; 165€–196€ ($239–$284) triple. AE, DC, MC, V. Métro: Ecole Militaire. **Amenities:** Bar; room service; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning; nonsmoking rooms. *In room:* A/C, TV, minibar, hair dryer, safe.

INEXPENSIVE

Hôtel à l'Eiffel Rive Gauche The charm of this family owned and run, intimate hotel derives from a very small on-site team and the sense that you've entered a distinctive universe that's very closely linked to the surrounding upscale residential neighborhood. Built around 1900, the hotel retains such original touches as the black-and-white, checkerboard-patterned floor tiles from the 1930s. Bedrooms are outfitted in tones of off-white and dark bordeaux, with vaguely French Empire themes scattered with some angular furniture from the 1960s and 1970s. The hotel lies on a tranquil street in the heart of the so-called "Triangle" (Eiffel, Invalides, and Champs-Elysées).

6 rue du Gros Caillou, 75007 Paris. ✆ **01-45-51-24-56.** Fax 01-45-51-11-77. www.hotel-eiffel.com. 29 units. 95€–135€ ($138–$196) double; 105€–155€ ($152–$225) triple; 125€–185€ ($181–$268) quad. MC, V. Métro: Ecole Militaire. *In room:* TV, fridge, hair dryer, safe.

Hôtel de Nevers This is one of the neighborhood's most historic choices—it was a convent from 1627 to 1790. In 2000, many aspects were upgraded and renovated. The building is *classé,* meaning any restoration must respect the original architecture. That precludes an elevator, so you'll have to use the beautiful wrought-iron staircase. The cozy, pleasant guest rooms contain a mix of antique and reproduction furniture. Room nos. 10 and 11 are especially sought after for their terraces overlooking a corner of rue du Bac or a rear courtyard. About half the units have tub/shower combinations.

83 rue du Bac, 75007 Paris. ✆ **01-45-44-61-30.** Fax 01-42-22-29-47. 11 units. 99€ ($144) double. MC, V. Métro: Rue du Bac. **Amenities:** Room service. *In room:* TV, minibar, hair dryer.

Hôtel du Quai Voltaire Built in the 1600s as an abbey and transformed into a hotel in 1856, the Quai Voltaire is best known for such illustrious guests as Wilde, Richard Wagner, and Baudelaire,

who occupied room nos. 47, 55, and 56, respectively. Camille Pissarro painted *Le Pont Royal* from the window of his fourth-floor room. Guest rooms in this modest inn were renovated in 2008; most overlook the bookstalls and boats of the Seine.

19 quai Voltaire, 75007 Paris. ✆ **01-42-61-50-91.** Fax 01-42-61-62-26. www.quaivoltaire.fr. 33 units. 130€–138€ ($189–$200) double; 165€ ($239) triple. AE, DC, MC, V. Parking 25€ ($36). Métro: Musée d'Orsay or Rue du Bac. **Amenities:** Bar; room service; laundry service. *In room:* Hair dryer.

3

Where to Dine

Welcome to the city that prides itself on being the world's culinary capital. Only in Paris can you turn onto the nearest little crooked side street; enter the first nondescript bistro you see; sit down at a bare, wobbly table; order from an illegibly hand-scrawled menu; and get a wonderfully memorable meal.

1 Food for Thought

PARIS'S RANGE OF RESTAURANTS Paris boasts a surplus of restaurants and cafes. Ultra-expensive **temples of gastronomy** include Alain Ducasse, L'Astor, Taillevent, Pierre Gagnaire, Lasserre, Jacques Cagna, Le Grand Véfour, and La Tour d'Argent. Savvy diners confine their trips to luxe places for special occasions. An array of other choices awaits, including simpler restaurants dispensing cuisine from every province of France and former colonies such as Morocco and Algeria.

Paris has hundreds of restaurants serving exotic **international fare,** reflecting the changing complexion of Paris itself and the city's increasing appreciation for food from other cultures. Your most memorable meal in Paris may turn out to be Vietnamese or West African.

You'll also find hundreds of bistros, brasseries, and cafes. In modern times, their designations and roles have become almost meaningless. Traditionally, a **bistro** was a small restaurant, often with Mom at the cash register and Pop in the kitchen. Menus are most often handwritten or mimeographed, and the selection of dishes tends to be small. Menus can be chic and elegant, sometimes heavily Mediterranean, and often dispensing gutsy fare, including the *pot-au-feu* (beef simmered with vegetables) that the chef's grandmother prepared for him as a kid.

French for "brewery," most **brasseries** have an Alsatian connection, and that means lots of beer, although Alsatian wines are also featured. Brasseries are almost always brightly lit and open 24 hours. Both snacks and full meals are available. The Alsatian establishments serve sauerkraut with an array of pork products.

Tips Dining Savoir-Faire

- Most restaurants serve lunch between noon and 2:30pm and dinner from 7 to 10pm. In a cafe, if you stand at the bar for a drink, coffee, or sandwich, prices are reduced from what they would be if you were seated at a table. French cookery reaches perfection when accompanied by wine. The general label on bottles of national wine is known as *Appellation d'Origine Contrôllée* (abbreviated AOC). Wine labels are narrowed down to a particular vine-growing region. Of course, labels are only part of the story: It's the vintage that counts.
- Some of the most satisfying wines come from unlabeled house bottles or carafes, called *vin de la maison.* They're also the cheapest wines served. Some restaurants include a beverage in their fixed-price menu *(boisson compris).* French beers are cheaper than imported beers. One of the best French beers has a German sounding name. It's Kronenbourg, and it's bottled in Alsace.
- Three-star dining remains quite expensive, with appetizers sometimes priced at 60€ ($87) and dinners easily costing 185€ to 250€ ($268–$363) per person in the top dining rooms of celebrated chefs. But you can get around that high price tag in many places by **dining at lunch** (when prices are always cheaper) or ordering a prix-fixe meal at lunch or dinner.
- The **prix-fixe (fixed-price) menu** or *le menu* is a set meal that the chef prepares that day. It is most often fresh and promptly served, and represents a greater bargain than dining a la carte. Of course, it's limited, so you'll

The **cafe** is a French institution and not just a place for an aperitif, a café au lait, or a croissant. Many cafes serve rib-sticking fare as well, certainly *entrecôte* (rib steak) with french fries, but often classics such as *blanquette de veau* (veal in white sauce). For more cafe lore, see section 4, "The Top Cafes," later in this chapter.

More attention in the late 1990s focused on the **wine bar,** a host of which we recommend in chapter 6, "Paris After Dark." Originally, wine bars concentrated on their lists of wines, featuring many

have to like the choices provided. Sometimes there are one to three menus, beginning with the least expensive and going up for a more elaborate meal. A lot depends on your pocketbook and appetite.

- In France, **lunch** (as well as dinner) tends to be a full-course meal with meat, vegetables, salad, bread, cheese, dessert, wine, and coffee. It may be difficult to find a restaurant that serves the type of light lunch North Americans usually eat. Cafes, however, offer sandwiches, soup, and salads in a relaxed setting.
- **Coffee** in France is served after the meal and carries an extra charge. The French consider it barbaric to drink coffee during the meal and, unless you order it with milk *(au lait),* it'll be served black. In more conscientious places, it's prepared as the traditional *café filtre,* a slow but rewarding java draw.
- In years gone by, no man would consider dining out, even at the neighborhood bistro, without a suit and tie, and no woman would be seen without a smart dress or suit. That **dress code** is more relaxed now, except in first-class and luxe establishments. Relaxed doesn't mean sloppy jeans and jogging attire, however. Parisians still value style, even when dressing informally.
- Sometimes service is added to your tab—usually 12% to 15%. If not, look for the words *service non compris* on your bill. That means that the cost of service was not added, and you'll be expected to leave a **tip.**

esoteric choices and ignoring the food except for some *charcuterie* (cold cuts) and cheeses. Today, you're likely to be offered various daily specials, from homemade foie gras to *boeuf à la mode* (marinated beef braised with red wine and served with vegetables).

Paris prices may seem extravagant to visitors from other parts of the world, particularly those who don't live in big cities, but there has been an emergence of moderately priced **informal restaurants** here, and we recommend several.

Although not as fashionable as before, **baby bistros** are still around. At these reasonably priced spinoffs from deluxe restaurants, you can get a taste of the cuisine of famous chefs without breaking the bank. We cover the best of them.

2 On the Right Bank

We'll begin with the most centrally located arrondissements on the Right Bank and then work our way through the more outlying neighborhoods and to the area around the Arc de Triomphe.

1ST ARRONDISSEMENT

VERY EXPENSIVE

Carré des Feuillants ★★★ MODERN FRENCH This is a bastion of perfection, an enclave of haute gastronomy. When chef Alain Dutournier turned this 17th-century convent between the place Vendôme and the Tuileries into a restaurant, it was an overnight success. The interior is artfully simple and even, in the eyes of some diners, spartan-looking. You'll find a sophisticated reinterpretation of cuisine from France's southwest, using seasonal ingredients and lots of know-how. Some of the best dishes include roasted rack of milk-fed Pyrenees lamb cooked in a clay pot or slices of John Dory with potatoes and a tender cabbage lasagna. Milk-fed veal with flap mushrooms and purple artichokes is yet another specialty. For dessert try the mango and passion fruit ravioli.

14 rue de Castiglione (near place Vendôme and the Tuileries), 1er. ✆ **01-42-86-82-82.** Fax 01-42-86-07-71. www.carredesfeuillants.fr. Reservations required far in advance. Main courses 55€–70€ ($80–$102); fixed-price lunch 65€–165€ ($94–$239); fixed-price dinner 165€ ($239). AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm and 7:30–10pm. Closed Aug. Métro: Tuileries, Concorde, Opéra, or Madeleine.

Le Grand Véfour ★★★ TRADITIONAL FRENCH This is the all-time winner: A great chef, the most beautiful restaurant decor in Paris, and a history-infused citadel of classic French cuisine. This restaurant has been around since the reign of Louis XV. Napoleon, Danton, Hugo, Colette, and Cocteau dined here—as the brass plaques on the tables testify—and it's still a gastronomic experience. Guy Martin, chef for the past decade, bases many items on recipes from the French Alps. He prepares such heavenly dishes as filet of lamb with wasabi, carved into rib sections and served with the smoked essence of its own juice. Other specialties are noisettes of lamb with star anise, Breton lobster with fennel, and cabbage sorbet in dark-chocolate sauce. The desserts are often grand, such as the *gourmandises au chocolat* (medley of chocolate), served with chocolate sorbet.

17 rue de Beaujolais, 1er. ✆ **01-42-96-56-27.** Fax 01-42-86-80-71. Reservations required far in advance. Main courses 75€–100€ ($109–$145); fixed-price menu 88€ ($128) lunch, 268€ ($389) dinner. AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Fri 12:30–1:45pm; Mon–Thurs 8–9:30pm. Closed Aug. Métro: Louvre–Palais-Royal or Pyramides.

EXPENSIVE

Chez Vong ✯ CANTONESE This is the kind of Les Halles restaurant you head for when you've had your fill of grand cuisine and pretensions. The decor is a soothing mix of greens and browns, steeped in a Chinese-colonial ambience that evokes early 1900s Shanghai. The chef's specialty is lacquered Peking duck with shrimp. Other menu items feature shrimp and scallops served as spicy as you like; Peking duck; chicken in puff pastry with ginger; and an array of fish dishes. The whims of fashion have deemed this one of the restaurants of the moment, so it's full of folks from the worlds of entertainment and the arts.

10 rue de la Grande-Truanderie, 1er. ✆ **01-40-26-09-36.** www.chez-vong.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses 11€–30€ ($16–$44); fixed-price lunch Mon–Fri 24€ ($35). AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Sat noon–2:30pm and 7pm–midnight. Métro: Etienne-Marcel or Les Halles.

Goumard ✯✯✯ SEAFOOD Opened in 1872, this landmark is one of Paris's leading seafood restaurants. It's so devoted to the fine art of preparing fish that other food is banned from the menu (the staff will verbally present a limited roster of meat dishes). The decor consists of a collection of Lalique crystal fish in artificial aquariums. Even more unusual are the restrooms, classified as historic monuments; the Art Nouveau master cabinetmaker Majorelle designed the commodes in the early 1900s. Much of the seafood is flown in from Brittany daily. Examples include flaky crab cakes, flash-fried scallops with black truffles, sautéed wild squid, and grilled John Dory. Nothing (no excess butter, spice, or salt) is allowed to interfere with the natural flavor of the sea.

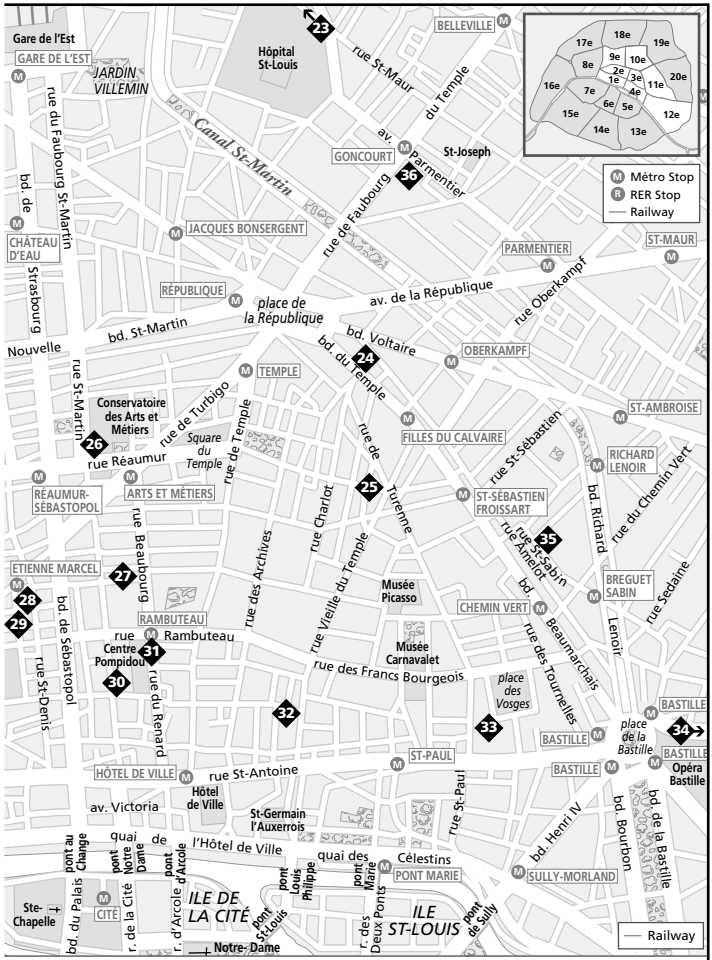
9 rue Duphot, 1er. ✆ **01-42-60-36-07.** Fax 01-42-60-04-54. www.goumard.com. Reservations required far in advance. Main courses 39€–75€ ($57–$109); fixed-price menu 46€ ($67). AE, DC, MC, V. Daily noon–2:30pm and 7:30–10:30pm. Métro: Madeleine or Concorde.

MODERATE

Au Pied de Cochon ✯✯ LATE NIGHT/TRADITIONAL FRENCH Their famous onion soup and namesake specialty (grilled pigs' feet with béarnaise sauce) still lure visitors, and where else in Paris can you get such a good meal at 3am? Other specialties include a platter named after the medieval patron saint of sausage makers, *la temptation de St-Antoine,* which includes grilled pig's tail,

Restaurants in the Heart of the Right Bank

Angélina **16**
Au Bascou **26**
Au Petit Monsieur **35**
Au Petit Riche **8**
Au Pied de Cochon **22**
Aux Lyonnais **11**
Bar des Théâtres **20**
Bistrot Paul Bert **34**
Brasserie Flo **6**
Café Beaubourg **30**
Café de la Musique **23**
Café Panique **5**
Carré des Feuillants **17**
Casa Olympe **3**
Chartier **7**
Chez André **20**
Chez Georges **13**
Chez Jenny **24**
Chez Savy **10**
Chez Vong **29**
Fouquet's **10**
Georges **31**
Goumard **18**
Joe Allen **28**
Kambodgia **20**
Ladurée **10**



Kambodgia **20**
Ladurée **10**
L'Ambassade d'Auvergne **27**
L'Ambroisie **33**
L'Astrance **20**
L'Ebauchoir **34**
La Butte Chaillot **20**
La Famille **1**
La Grille **4**
La Poule au Pot **21**
Lasserre **20**
Le Chateaubriand **36**
Le Grain de Folie **2**
Le Grand Véfour **14**
Le Pamphlet **25**
Le Vaudeville **12**
Les Gourmets des Ternes **9**
Mansouria **34**
Market **10**
Pinxo **15**
Restaurant Plaza Athénée (Alain Aucasse) **20**
1728 **19**
Spoon, Food & Wine **20**
Taillevent **10**
Wally Le Saharien **32**

pig's snout, and half a pig's foot, all served with béarnaise and *pommes frites;* and *andouillettes* (chitterling sausages) with béarnaise. Two flavorful but less unusual dishes: a *jarret* (shin) of pork, caramelized in honey and served on a bed of sauerkraut, and grilled pork ribs with sage sauce. On the street outside, you can buy some of the freshest oysters in town.

6 rue Coquillière, 1er. ✆ **01-40-13-77-00.** www.pieddecochon.com. Reservations recommended for lunch and dinner hours. Main courses 17€–46€ ($25–$67). AE, DC, MC, V. Daily 24 hr. Métro: Les Halles or Louvre.

Joe Allen ★ *Kids* AMERICAN The first American restaurant in Les Halles is aging well. Joe Allen long ago invaded the place with his hamburger. Though the New York restaurateur admits "it's a silly idea," it works, and this place serves Paris's best burger. While listening to the jukebox, you can order black-bean soup, chili, sirloin steak, ribs, or apple pie. Joe Allen is getting more sophisticated, catering to modern tastes with dishes such as grilled salmon with coconut rice and sun-dried tomatoes. His saloon is the only place in Paris serving New York cheesecake and real pecan pie. A very popular brunch is served Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4pm, costing 18€ ($26). Without a dinner reservation, expect a 30-minute wait at the New York Bar.

30 rue Pierre-Lescot, 1er. ✆ **01-42-36-70-13.** www.joeallenrestaurant.com. Reservations recommended for dinner. Main courses 18€ ($26); fixed-price menu 14€–23€ ($20–$33). AE, MC, V. Daily noon–1am; Sat–Sun brunch noon–4pm. Métro: Etienne-Marcel.

La Poule au Pot LATE NIGHT/TRADITIONAL FRENCH Established in 1935, this bistro welcomes late-night carousers and showbiz personalities looking for a meal after a performance. (Past aficionados have included the Rolling Stones, Prince, and Dustin Hoffman.) The decor is authentically Art Deco; the ambience, nurturing. Time-tested and savory menu items include salmon with champagne sauce; onion soup; a tripe casserole Norman style; Burgundy-style snails; country pâté on a bed of onion marmalade; and a succulent version of the restaurant's namesake—chicken in a pot, with slices of pâté and fresh vegetables.

9 rue Vauvilliers, 1er. ✆ **01-42-36-32-96.** www.lapouleaupot.fr. Reservations recommended. Main courses 22€–36€ ($32–$52); fixed-price menu 33€ ($48). MC, V. Tues–Sun 7pm–5am. Métro: Louvre or Les Halles.

Pinxo ★ *Finds* SOUTHWESTERN FRENCH This is the cost-conscious brasserie that's associated with megachef Alain Dutournier's terribly stylish, and much more expensive, Carré des Feuillants,

which is on a nearby street. Within Pinxo, a good-looking waitstaff encourages clients to share their starters and platters with their tablemates. This becomes relatively easy because anytime something appears on a plate, it's replicated, sometimes with variations, three times. The setting manages to elevate kitchen drudgery to a high, and high-tech, art form. Expect a wooden floor, white walls, and views that extend directly into an all-black open kitchen-cum-theater. Most foods here are grilled or at least prepared with heart-healthy cooking oils. Examples include a mixture of Aquitaine beef on the same plate as a steak, a tartare, and a blood sausage, all of them accompanied by a slice of foie gras.

In the Plaza-Paris-Vendôme Hôtel, 9 rue d'Alger, 1er. ✆ **01-40-20-72-00.** www.carredesfeuillants.fr. Reservations recommended. Main courses 16€–26€ ($23–$38). AE, MC, V. Daily 12:15–2:30pm and 7:15–11:30pm. Métro: Tuileries.

INEXPENSIVE

Angélina ★★ TEA/TRADITIONAL FRENCH In the high-rent area near the InterContinental, this *salon de thé* (tea salon) combines fashion-industry glitter and bourgeois respectability. The carpets are plush, the ceilings high, and the accessories have the right amount of patina. The waitresses bear silver trays with pastries, drinks, and tea or coffee to marble-topped tables. Lunch usually offers a salad and a *plat du jour* (dish of the day) such as *salade gourmande* (gourmet salad) with foie gras and smoked breast of duck on a bed of fresh salad greens. An enduring specialty here is hot chocolate, priced at 7€ ($10) for a pot suitable for one person. Another specialty, designed to go well with tea, is the Mont Blanc, a combination of chestnut cream and meringue.

226 rue de Rivoli, 1er. ✆ **01-42-60-82-00.** Reservations not accepted for tea. Pot of tea for one 7€ ($10); sandwiches and salads 10€–15€ ($15–$22); main courses 16€–30€ ($23–$44). AE, MC, V. Mon–Fri 8am–6:45pm; Sun 9am–6:45pm. Métro: Tuileries or Concorde.

2ND ARRONDISSEMENT

MODERATE

Aux Lyonnais ★ LYONNAIS/TRADITIONAL FRENCH After a meal here, you'll know why Lyon is called the gastronomic capital of France. There is no better Lyonnais bistro in Paris than this time-mellowed place vaguely associated with Alain Ducasse. The day's menu is based on the freshest produce in the market that morning. It's offered against an 1890s bistro backdrop of potted palms, etched glass, and globe lamps. Inventiveness and solid technique characterize such dishes as parsleyed calves' liver, pike dumplings (the best in Paris), skate meunière, and peppery *coq au vin* (chicken stewed in

red wine) with *crème fraîche* (fresh cream) macaroni. The best for last: a heaven-sent Grand Marnier soufflé.

32 rue St-Marc, 2e. ✆ **01-42-96-65-04.** www.alain-ducasse.com. Reservations required. Main courses 22€–25€ ($32–$36); 3-course fixed-price menu 28€–32€ ($41–$46). AE, DC, MC, V. Tues–Fri noon–1:30pm; Tues–Sat 7:30–10pm. Métro: Grands-Boulevards.

Chez Georges TRADITIONAL FRENCH Three generations of the same family run this bistro, which opened in 1964 near La Bourse (the stock exchange). At lunch it's packed with stock-exchange members. It serves *la cuisine bourgeoise* (comfort food). Waiters bring around bowls of appetizers, such as celery rémoulade, to get you started. You can follow with grilled turbot in a Béarnaise sauce, duck breast with cèpe mushrooms, cassoulet, or *pot-au-feu* (beef simmered with vegetables). The sole filet with a sauce made from Pouilly wine and *crème fraîche* (fresh cream) is a delight.

1 rue du Mail, 2e. ✆ **01-42-60-07-11.** Reservations required. Main courses 25€–38€ ($36–$55). AE, MC, V. Mon–Fri noon–2pm and 7–10pm. Closed Aug. Métro: Bourse.

Le Vaudeville LATE NIGHT/TRADITIONAL FRENCH Adjacent to La Bourse (stock exchange), this bistro retains its marble walls and Art Deco carvings from 1918. The place is boisterous and informal, often welcoming groups of six or eight diners at a time. The roster of platters includes a salad of crayfish and asparagus points, grilled Dover sole, smoked salmon, sauerkraut, and grilled meats, even stewed calf's head. Three dishes reign as enduring favorites: fresh grilled codfish with mashed potatoes and truffle juice, fresh escalope of warm foie gras with grapes or raspberries, and fresh pasta with morels. The prix-fixe menu is a good deal.

29 rue Vivienne, 2e. ✆ **01-40-20-04-62.** www.vaudevilleparis.com. Reservations recommended in the evenings. Main courses 17€–39€ ($25–$57); fixed-price menu 24€ ($35) for 2 courses, 31€ ($45) for 3 courses. AE, DC, MC, V. Daily noon–3pm and 7pm–1am. Métro: Bourse.

3RD ARRONDISSEMENT

MODERATE

Le Pamphlet *Value* SOUTHWESTERN FRENCH/TRADITIONAL FRENCH This is the kind of rustic, country-comfortable inn where Parisians book a table at least 48 hours in advance and then schedule the event in their appointment books as a midweek break from urban life. Part of the charm here involves discussing the political theories of strong-willed and gruffly charming owner and chef Alain Carrère. The menu changes several times a

week. Your meal might begin with *rillettes* (a rough-textured terrine) of rabbit with crayfish, a thick cream of crabmeat soup garnished with baby peas, or a thin potato tart with marinated wild salmon and fine herbs. Recommended main courses include a rack of Pyrenean lamb served with *croustillant* (a crisp pastry) enriched with Rocamadour goat cheese, or a mixed grill of meats.

38 rue Debelleyme, 3e. ✆ **01-42-72-39-24.** Reservations required, usually 48 hr. in advance for dinner. Fixed-price menu 35€–65€ ($51–$94). MC, V. Tues–Fri noon–2:30pm; Mon–Sat 7:30–11pm. Closed 1st 2 weeks of Jan and 2 weeks in mid-Aug. Métro: Filles du Calvaire.

INEXPENSIVE

Au Bascou ★ *Finds* BASQUE The succulent cuisine of France's "deep southwest" is the specialty here, where art objects, paintings, and tones of ocher celebrate the beauty of the region, and hanging clusters of pimentos add spice to the air. For a ray of sunshine, try *pipérade basquaise* (a spicy omelet loaded with peppers and onions); pimentos stuffed with purée of codfish; and *axoa* of veal (shoulder of calf served with pimento-and-pepper-based green sauce). Also noteworthy is the sautéed shrimp with fennel salad.

38 rue Réaumur, 3e. ✆ **01-42-72-69-25.** Reservations recommended. Main courses 17€ ($25), fixed-price menu 19€ ($28). AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Fri noon–2pm and 8–10:30pm. Closed Aug and week of Christmas. Métro: Arts-et-Métiers.

Chez Jenny *Value* ALSATIAN One of the city's most famous Alsatian restaurants was established in 1930 by members of the Jenny family. Little has changed since its inauguration except that the clientele is a lot more contemporary-looking than in the old days. Up to 220 diners can fit into this nostalgia-laden setting, where Alsatian *Gemütlichkeit* prevails. An ongoing specialty is the *choucroute* (sauerkraut) *de chez Jenny,* piled high with sausages, tender pork knuckles, and slices of ham. Also available are salmon with sorrel, grilled meats, grilled fish, and chicken supreme flavored with Riesling. Any of these tastes wonderful accompanied by one of the Alsatian wines that fill the wine list.

39 bd. du Temple, 3e. ✆ **01-44-54-39-00.** Reservations recommended. Main courses 17€–30€ ($25–$44); fixed-price menu 25€–55€ ($36–$80). AE, DC, MC, V. Sun–Thurs noon–midnight; Fri–Sat noon–1am. Métro: République.

L'Ambassade d'Auvergne ★ AUVERGNAT/TRADITIONAL FRENCH You enter this rustic tavern through a bar with heavy oak beams, hanging hams, and ceramic plates. It showcases the culinary bounty of France's most isolated region, the Auvergne, whose pork products are widely celebrated. Try chicory salad with apples

Moments Taking an Ice Cream Break at Berthillon

A landmark on Ile St-Louis after more than 3 dozen years in business, the *salon de thé* **Berthillon** ★★★, 31 rue St-Louis-en-l'Ile, 4e (✆ **01-43-54-31-61;** Métro: Pont Marie), offers the world's best selection of ice cream. Try gingerbread, bitter-chocolate mousse, rhubarb, melon, kumquat, black currant, or any fresh fruit in season—there are more than 70 flavors and nothing artificial (but only 35 are available at any given moment). Parisians flock here in such numbers that gendarmes have been called out to direct the traffic of ice cream aficionados. It's open Wednesday to Sunday 10am to 8pm. Closed late July and August.

and pieces of country ham; pork braised with cabbage, turnips, and white beans; or grilled tripe sausages with mashed potatoes and Cantal cheese with garlic. Nonpork specialties are pan-fried duck liver with gingerbread, perch steamed in verbena tea, and roasted rack of lamb with wild mushrooms.

22 rue de Grenier St-Lazare, 3e. ✆ **01-42-72-31-22.** www.ambassade-auvergne.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses 14€–22€ ($20–$32); fixed-price menu 28€ ($41). AE, MC, V. Daily noon–2pm and 7:30–10:30pm. Métro: Rambuteau.

4TH ARRONDISSEMENT

VERY EXPENSIVE

L'Ambroisie ★ *Overrated* FRENCH One of Paris's most talented chefs, Bernard Pacaud, drew attention with his vivid flavors and gastronomic skill, but culinary standards here are declining. At this 17th-century town house, the decor resembles an Italian palazzo. Pacaud's tables are nearly always filled with diners drawn here by all that praise in Michelin. The dishes change seasonally and may include escargot cannelloni in a creamy star anise-flavored broth or roasted foie gras glazed with onion caramels, lobster gazpacho; or *poulard de Bresse demi-deuil homage à la Mère Brazier* (chicken roasted with black truffles and truffled vegetables). There is a rather snobby attitude here: It's a bit shocking when one calls for a reservation to be asked to state one's nationality.

9 place des Vosges, 4e. ✆ **01-42-78-51-45.** Reservations required far in advance. Main courses 90€–112€ ($131–$162). AE, MC, V. Tues–Sat noon–1:30pm and 8–9:30pm. Métro: St-Paul or Chemin Vert.

MODERATE

Georges ✪ INTERNATIONAL The Centre Pompidou is again in the spotlight; all of artsy Paris is talking about this place. Georges is in a large space on the top floor of Paris's most comprehensive arts complex, with views through bay windows over most of the city. The decor is minimalist and postmodern, with lots of brushed aluminum and stainless steel. Menu items are mostly Continental, with hints of Asia. Some combinations surprise—macaroni with lobster, for example. Others seem exotic, including roasted ostrich steak. Aside from these dishes, some of the best items on the menu are king crab with coconut milk and curry. To get here, head for the exterior elevator to the left of the Centre Pompidou's main entrance. Tell the guard you have a reservation; otherwise, you might not be allowed up.

Centre Pompidou, 6th Floor, 19 rue Beaubourg, 4e. ✆ **01-44-78-47-99.** Reservations required for dinner, recommended for lunch. Main courses 15€–43€ ($22–$62). AE, DC, MC, V. Wed–Mon 11am–1am. Métro: Rambuteau.

9TH ARRONDISSEMENT

As with its counterparts from Hong Kong to Reykjavík, the **Hard Rock Cafe,** 14 bd. Montmartre, 9e (✆ **01-53-24-60-00;** Métro: Grands Boulevards or Richelieu-Drouot), offers musical memorabilia as well as musical selections from 35 years of rock. The crowd appreciates the juicy steaks, hamburgers, veggie burgers, salads, pastas, and heaping platters of informal French-inspired food. It's open Sunday to Thursday 8:30am to 1am and Friday to Saturday 8:30am to 2am.

MODERATE

Au Petit Riche ✪ LOIRE VALLEY (ANJOU)/TRADITIONAL FRENCH No, that's not Flaubert or Balzac walking through the door, but should they miraculously return, the decor of old Paris, with the original gas lamps and time-mellowed paneling, will make them feel at home. This place opened in 1865 as the restaurant associated with the very large and then-solvent Café Riche next door. After Café Riche burned down, the restaurant continued to attract lawyers, set designers, and machinists from the nearby Opéra Garnier, eventually becoming a well-known restaurant. Expect an impressive roster of Loire Valley wines and food that combines Loire Valley classics with traditional French fare. The house is famous for its Gillardeau oysters. Other examples include roasted rack of veal prepared *à l'ancienne,* a long-standing house special of *tartare* of beef, roasted whitefish in meat drippings, and seasonal game dishes such as civet of rabbit.

25 rue Le Peletier, 9e. ✆ **01-47-70-68-68.** www.aupetitriche.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses 15€–30€ ($22–$44); fixed-price menus 27€–31€ ($39–$45). AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Sat noon–2:15pm and 7pm–midnight. Métro: Le Peletier or Richelieu-Drouot.

Casa Olympe ★★ *Finds* PROVENÇAL/CORSICAN Serious Paris foodies and peripatetic gourmets such as Francis Ford Coppola make their way to the 9th to feast on the wares of an original cook. Olympe Versini earned a Michelin star at the age of 29 and dazzled some of the most discerning palates of *tout* Paris in Montparnasse before opening this unassuming 32-seat dining room. Critics cite the earthiness of her cooking as evoked by her duck ravioli bathed in a jus reduction or her heavenly foie gras terrine brazenly studded with split vanilla beans. From head to hoof, she serves most parts of the pig—and does so with gutsiness. Her langoustine ravioli is modish but not excessively so, and her beef tenderloin with peppercorn sauce is one of the best versions of this time-honored dish.

48 rue St-Georges, 9e. ✆ **01-42-85-26-01.** Reservations required. Fixed-price menus 28€–35€ ($41–$51). MC, V. Mon–Fri noon–2pm and 8–11pm. MC, V. Closed 3 weeks in Aug, 1 week in May. Métro: St-Georges.

Wally Le Saharien ALGERIAN Head to this dining room—lined with desert photos and tribal artifacts crafted from ceramics, wood, and weavings—for an insight into the spicy, slow-cooked cuisine that fueled the colonial expansion of France into North Africa. The prix-fixe dinner menu begins with a trio of starters: spicy soup, stuffed and grilled sardines, and a savory *pastilla* of pigeon in puff pastry. Next comes any of several kinds of couscous or a *méchouia* (slow-cooked tart) of lamb dusted with an optional coating of sugar. *Merguez,* the cumin-laden spicy sausage of the North African world, factors importantly into any meal, as do homemade pastries.

36 rue Rodier, 9e. ✆ **01-42-85-51-90.** Reservations recommended. Main courses (lunch only) 19€–23€ ($28–$33); fixed-price dinner 44€ ($64). MC, V. Tues–Sat noon–2pm and 7–10pm. Métro: Anvers.

INEXPENSIVE

Chartier TRADITIONAL FRENCH Opened in 1896, this unpretentious *fin-de-siècle* restaurant is now an official historic monument featuring a whimsical mural with trees, a flowering staircase, and an early depiction of an airplane (it was painted in 1929 by an artist who traded his work for food). The waiter will steer you through such dishes as *boeuf bourguignon* (braised beef in red-wine sauce), *pot-au-feu* (combining beef, turnips, cabbage, and carrots), *pavé* (a thick slice) of rump steak, and at least five kinds of fish.

7 rue du Faubourg Montmartre, 9e. ✆ **01-47-70-86-29.** www.restaurant-chartier.com. Main courses 10€–12€ ($15–$17). Fixed-price menus 19€–21€ ($28–$30). AE, DC, MC, V. Daily 11:30am–3pm and 6–10pm. Métro: Grands Boulevards.

10TH ARRONDISSEMENT

MODERATE

Brasserie Flo ★ ALSATIAN This remote restaurant is hard to find, but after you arrive (after walking through passageway after passageway), you'll see that *fin-de-siècle* Paris lives on. The restaurant opened in 1860 and has changed its decor very little. The specialty is *la formidable choucroute* (a mound of sauerkraut with boiled ham, bacon, and sausage) for two. Onion soup and *sole meunière* (sole in lemon butter sauce) are always good, as are warm foie gras and guinea hen with lentils. Look for the *plats du jour,* ranging from roast pigeon to tuna steak with hot peppers.

7 cour des Petites-Ecuries, 10e. ✆ **01-47-70-13-59.** www.flobrasseries.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses 17€–38€ ($25–$55); fixed-price menus 22€–32€ ($32–$46). AE, DC, MC, V. Daily noon–3pm and 7pm–1am. Métro: Château d'Eau or Strasbourg-St-Denis.

La Grille *Value* SEAFOOD/TRADITIONAL FRENCH Few other moderate restaurants are as hotly pursued by Parisians as this nine-table holdover from another age. For at least a century after the French Revolution, fishermen from Dieppe used this place as a springboard for carousing and cabaret-watching after delivering their fish to Les Halles market. Since the late 1960s, the charming, outspoken M. and Mme Cullérre, who in 2005 received an award from the French tourist office for their contribution to tourism in Paris, have run this restaurant. They have become distinctive, albeit slightly eccentric, neighborhood fixtures. The holy grail at La Grille is an entire turbot prepared tableside with an emulsified white-butter sauce. Other recommended dishes are seafood terrine, *boeuf bourguignon* (braised beef in red-wine sauce), and a brochette of scallops in white butter. (The restaurant name derives from the 200-year-old wrought-iron grills in front, classified as national treasures.)

80 rue du Faubourg-Poissonnière, 10e. ✆ **01-47-70-89-73.** Reservations required. Main courses 24€–32€ ($35–$46). AE, MC, V. Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm and 7–10pm. Métro: Poissonnière.

INEXPENSIVE

Café Panique ★ *Finds* MODERN FRENCH Welcome to the New France and one of Paris's best-kept secrets. Although this cafe opened its doors in the '90s, it was only really discovered post-millennium when word seeped out about its easygoing atmosphere

and affordable prices. Come here for the mellow ambience and the scrumptious food. The Café has improved its kitchen since its debut, and today's chefs offer such delights as *magret de canard* (breast of duckling) or scallops with a fresh orange flavoring. A marvelous monkfish flavored with fresh basil is also featured, as is a lamb flavored with mint.

12 rue des Messagerie, 10e. ✆ **01-47-70-06-84.** www.cafepanique.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses 19€ ($28); fixed-price lunch 20€ ($29); fixed-price dinner 32€ ($46). MC, V. Mon–Fri noon–2pm and 7:30–10pm. Closed Sat–Sun and in Aug. Métro: Poissonnière.

11TH ARRONDISSEMENT

MODERATE

Au Petit Monsieur ★ *Finds* TRADITIONAL FRENCH A meal at this restaurant, tucked away in the 11th arrondissement, is like dining in the French countryside. Under wooden beams held up by old stone walls, the three dining rooms are decorated with country crockery. Patrons dine at bare wooden tables, using kitchen towels as napkins. Everything is served by a capable staff sensitive to your needs and orders. The fixed-price lunch and dinner menus are changed every day. Appetizers often begin with a tureen of soup from which you help yourself. Appetizers feature such dishes as a risotto with artichokes and tomatoes, followed by a tournedos of duckling in the Provençal style, or else delicate veal in a white sauce.

50 rue Amelot, 11e. ✆ **01-43-55-54-04.** Reservations required. Fixed-price lunch 16€–26€ ($23–$38); fixed-price dinner 35€ ($51). AE, MC, V. Tues–Fri noon–2pm; Tues–Sat 7–10pm. Métro: Chemin Vert.

Bistrot Paul Bert ★ TRADITIONAL FRENCH Some critics define this as the best and most appealing middle-bracket restaurant in the 11th arrondissement, and judging by the crowds that pack in here on a Saturday night, we're inclined to agree. Expect a crowded, noisy, usually convivial ambience where diners' necks strain to read the blackboard specials and where overworked, independent-minded waiters don't lightly suffer fools of any nationality. Menu items evoke the classic traditions that have flourished here at least since the 1950s. Classics include chicken braised in yellow wine from the Jura, veal kidneys in mustard sauce, monkfish served with an herb-flavored cream sauce, and roast suckling pig.

18 rue Paul-Bert, 11e. ✆ **01-43-72-24-01.** Reservations recommended. Main courses 10€–20€ ($15–$29); fixed-price lunch 16€–32€ ($23–$46); fixed-price dinner 32€ ($46). MC, V. Tues–Sat noon–2:30pm and 7:30–11pm. Closed Aug. Métro: Faidherbe-Chaligny.

Mansouria MOROCCAN One of Paris's most charming Moroccan restaurants occupies a much-restored building midway between place de la Bastille and place de la Nation. The minimalist decor combines futuristic architecture with bare sand-colored walls, accented only with sets of antique doors and portals from the sub-Sahara. Look for seven kinds of couscous, including versions with chicken; beef brochettes; or lamb, onions, and almonds. *Tagines* are succulent dishes of chicken or fish prepared with aromatic herbs and slow-cooked in clay pots that are carried to your table.

11 rue Faidherbe, 11e. ✆ **01-43-71-00-16.** Reservations recommended. Main courses 16€–24€ ($23–$35); fixed-price dinner 30€–46€ ($44–$67); fixed-price lunch 29€–39€ ($42–$57). AE, MC, V. Wed–Sat noon–2pm; Tues–Sat 7:30–11pm. Métro: Faidherbe-Chaligny.

INEXPENSIVE

Le Chateaubriand ★ *Finds* MODERN FRENCH The owner, Inaki Aizpitarte, calls this time-tested old eatery a "neo bistro," and so it is. The dark 1930s decor looks relatively intact, but this native of the Basque Country, where he learned his culinary skills, has completely changed the cuisine. Today instead of the classic coq au vin or steak with frites, you are treated to rare tuna slices in pink beet foam flavored with pomegranate seeds or steamed cod with Moroccan spices.

At dinner the only choice is a prix-fixe and it's a winner, perhaps featuring such dishes as eel flavored with orange juice and olive oil, warm cockles and mussels, teriyaki salmon, and mint lamb tagine. Some of the dishes are very daring indeed, including pork belly flavored with licorice.

129 av. Parmentier, 11e. ✆ **01-43-57-45-95.** Reservations required. Main courses at lunch 15€–22€ ($22–$32); fixed-price lunch 14€–19€ ($20–$28); 5-course set-price dinner 40€ ($58). AE, DC, MC, V. Tues–Fri noon–2pm; Tues–Sat 8–10:30pm. Métro: Goncourt.

12TH ARRONDISSEMENT

EXPENSIVE

Au Trou Gascon ★★★ GASCONY One of Paris's most acclaimed chefs, Alain Dutournier, lures fashionable palates to an unchic area. He launched his career in southwest France's Gascony region. His parents mortgaged their inn to allow Dutournier to open an early 1900s-style bistro in a little-known part of the 12th arrondissement. Word spread of a savant in the kitchen who practiced authentic *cuisine moderne.* His wife, Nicole, is the welcoming hostess, and the wine steward has distinguished himself for his exciting cave containing several little-known wines along with a fabulous

collection of Armagnacs. You can start with duck foie gras cooked in a terrine or Gascony-cured ham. The best main courses include a casserole of scallops with endive, tender lamb from the Pyrenees, or the chef's favorite dish, le Cassoulet, made with duckling, pork, lamb, and sausage. Starters feature foie gras with raisins or else grilled shrimp.

40 rue Taine, 12e. ✆ **01-43-44-34-26.** Reservations recommended a day in advance. Main courses 28€–32€ ($41–$46); fixed-price lunch 36€ ($52); fixed-price dinner 50€ ($73). AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Fri noon–2pm and 8–10pm. Closed Aug. Métro: Daumesnil.

INEXPENSIVE

L'Ebauchoir ★ *Finds* TRADITIONAL FRENCH Tucked into a neighborhood rarely visited by foreigners and featuring a 1950s decor that is so out it's in, this bistro attracts carpenters, plumbers, and electricians, as well as an occasional journalist and screenwriter. With buffed aluminum trim and plaster-and-stucco walls tinted dark orange-yellow and bordeaux, the place might remind you of a factory canteen. You can order surprisingly generous and well-prepared smoked herring and potato salad for starters, even tuna tartare. One of the most unusual main courses is a grilled tuna steak with white chocolate. Too much for you? There's always the more traditional roast chicken (flavored with thyme) or rack of lamb with turmeric, along with red snapper filet with olive oil and fresh garlic.

43 rue de Citeaux, 12e. ✆ **01-43-42-49-31.** Reservations recommended for dinner. Main courses 15€–25€ ($22–$36); fixed-price lunch 14€ ($20); fixed-price dinner 23€ ($33). AE, MC, V. Tues–Sat noon–2:30pm; Mon–Sat 8–11pm. Métro: Faidherbe-Chaligny.

18TH ARRONDISSEMENT

MODERATE

La Famille ★ MODERN FRENCH The ambience is like New York's East Village, and this place attracts fashionistas and photographers who climb the hill to Montmartre to sample the tasty food. The bartender makes *mojitos* like Hemingway drank them, while Edith Piaf records spin in the background. Each dish arrives like a sensation, including the oyster terrine made with seaweed, cappuccino, and cilantro mousse. Other unusual sensations include a terrine of duck confit or a special mackerel dish. For dessert, finish off, perhaps, with a lemon tart with lemon verbena jus. Always count on the chefs offering some surprise combinations every night.

41 rue des Trois Freres, 18e. ✆ **01-42-52-11-12.** Reservations recommended. Set-price menus 28€–35€ ($41–$51). MC, V. Tues–Sat 8–11pm. Closed 3 weeks in Aug. Métro: Abesses.

INEXPENSIVE

Le Grain de Folie ORGANIC/VEGETARIAN Simple and wholesome, this cuisine is inspired by France, Greece, California, Turkey, and India. The menu includes an array of theme salads, cereals, tarts, terrines, and casseroles. Dessert selections might include an old-fashioned tart or a fruit salad. You can choose one of an array of wines or a frothy glass of vegetable juice to accompany your meal. This place may be a bit difficult to find, but it's worth the search. Marie-Cécite is the charming owner.

24 rue de Lavieuville, 18e. ✆ **01-42-58-15-57.** Reservations recommended. Main courses 10€–12€ ($15–$17); fixed-price menus 12€–16€ ($17–$23). No credit cards. Tues–Sun 12:30–2:30pm and 7:30–11pm. Métro: Abbesses.

8TH ARRONDISSEMENT

VERY EXPENSIVE

Lasserre ★★★ MODERN & TRADITIONAL FRENCH It's so old, it's new again. This elegant restaurant was a bistro before World War II and has since become a legend. The main salon stretches two stories high, with a mezzanine on each side. The ceiling is painted with white clouds and a cerulean sky, but in good weather, the staff slides back the roof to reveal the real sky. The faces of Audrey Hepburn, Maria Callas, and Marlene Dietrich have given way to young British royals and statuesque models from Brazil. A spectacular chef, Jean-Louis Nomicos, is a master of taste and texture, and he's brought renewed life to this swank citadel. The appetizers are among Paris's finest, including macaroni with black truffles and foie gras or marinated scallops with caviar. The main course specialty is poached sole filets *Club de la Casserole,* in puff pastry with asparagus tips and asparagus-flavored cream sauce; also wonderful are the veal kidneys flambé and pigeon André Malraux. The wine cellar, with some 160,000 bottles, is one of Paris's most remarkable.

17 av. Franklin D. Roosevelt, 8e. ✆ **01-43-59-53-43.** Fax 01-45-63-72-23. www.restaurant-lasserre.com. Reservations required far in advance. Main courses 56€–94€ ($81–$136); fixed-price lunch 75€ ($109); fixed-price dinner 185€ ($268). AE, MC, V. Thurs–Fri 12:15–2pm; Mon–Sat 7:30–10pm. Closed Aug. Métro: Franklin-D-Roosevelt.

Restaurant Plaza Athénée (Alain Ducasse) ★★★ MODERN & TRADITIONAL FRENCH Few other chefs have been catapulted to international fame as quickly as Alain Ducasse. In this, his Parisian stronghold, he places a special emphasis on "rare and precious ingredients," whipping up flavorful and very expensive combinations of caviar, lobster, crayfish, truffles (both black and white), and shellfish. Cuisine is vaguely Mediterranean and decidedly

contemporary, yet based on traditional models. Some of the best examples include smoked, tea-glazed pigeon or line-caught sea bass with green asparagus. For appetizers, try the creamy pasta with truffles and giblets. Desserts are perhaps the finest in all of Paris's luxe restaurants. The wine list is superb, with some selections deriving from the best vintages of France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, California, and Italy.

In the Hôtel Plaza Athénée, 25 av. Montaigne, 8e. ✆ **01-53-67-65-00.** Fax 01-53-67-65-12. www.alain-ducasse.com. Reservations required 4–6 weeks in advance. Main courses 70€–160€ ($102–$232); fixed-price menus 220€–350€ ($319–$508). AE, DC, MC, V. Thurs–Fri 12:45–2:15pm; Mon–Fri 7:45–10:15pm. Closed mid-July to Aug 22 and 10 days in late Dec. Métro: Alma-Marceau.

Taillevent ★★★ MODERN & TRADITIONAL FRENCH This is the Parisian *ne plus ultra* of gastronomy. Taillevent opened in 1946 and has climbed steadily in excellence; today it ranks as Paris's outstanding all-around restaurant, challenged only by Lucas-Carton and Pierre Gagnaire. It's in a grand 19th-century town house off the Champs-Elysées, with paneled rooms and crystal chandeliers. The place is small, which permits the owner to give personal attention to every facet of the operation and maintain a discreet atmosphere. Each dish is supreme in flavor, including John Dory with olives or lamb saddle seasoned with wild herbs. A cassoulet of crayfish, if featured, is also divine. Chefs dare to serve that old standard, *baba au rhum,* but it's perhaps the best you'll ever taste. The wine list is among the best in Paris.

15 rue Lamennais, 8e. ✆ **01-44-95-15-01.** Fax 01-42-25-95-18. www.taillevent.com. Reservations required 4–6 weeks in advance. Main courses 34€–90€ ($49–$131); fixed-price lunch 70€ ($102); *dégustation* 140€–190€ ($203–$276). AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm and 7–10pm. Closed Aug. Métro: George V.

EXPENSIVE

L'Angle du Faubourg ★★ TRADITIONAL FRENCH Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, a reservation at the ultra-upscale Taillevent was sought after by diplomats, billionaires, and *demi-mondains* from around Europe. In 2001, the Taillevent's owner, M. Vrinat, opened a cost-conscious bistro that capitalizes on Taillevent's reputation, but at much lower prices. Lunches here tend to be efficient, relatively quick, and businesslike; dinners are more leisurely, even romantic. The restaurant has an ultramodern dining room, additional seating in the cellar, and a menu that simplifies Taillevent's lofty culinary ideas. The best examples include braised lamb with the juice of black olives; risotto with ingredients that

change weekly (during our visit, it was studded with braised radicchio); and a grilled, low-fat version of *daurade* (bream), served with artichokes and a reduction of mushrooms, appreciated by the many diet-conscious *photo-modèles* who stop in.

195 rue du Faubourg St-Honoré, 8e. ✆ **01-40-74-20-20.** www.taillevent.com. Reservations required. Main courses 19€–35€ ($28–$51); fixed-price menu 35€–70€ ($51–$102). AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm and 7–10:30pm. Métro: Terme or Etoile.

1728 ★ *Finds* JAPANESE/MODERN FRENCH An 18th-century town house, just off Faubourg-St-Honoré where the Marquis de Lafayette lived, has been turned into this chic rendezvous. The decor is sumptuous, just like it was in the 1700s, with paintings on the wall—each for sale—and low marble dining tables and chairs. Call the place what you like—upmarket tea salon or cafe. Start with the tuna tartare or even a well-stuffed club sandwich at lunch. The tiger shrimp are savory and scented with malt whisky. For a main course, one of the most delightful offerings is steamed sea bass, flavored with ginger and served with snow peas and zucchini. Other fine selections include filet of sole with a saffron-laced sauce and filet of beef in a sauce made of Chinese truffles. The pastries are supplied from the famous Pierre Hermé bakeries.

8 rue d'Anjou, 8e. ✆ **01-40-17-04-77.** www.restaurant-1728.com. Reservations recommended for main meals. Main courses 25€–40€ ($36–$58). AE, MC, V. Mon–Fri noon–midnight; Sat 8pm–midnight. Closed 3 weeks in Aug. Métro: Concorde.

Spoon, Food & Wine ★ INTERNATIONAL This hypermodern venture by star chef Alain Ducasse is both hailed as a "restaurant for the millennium" and condemned as surreal and a bit absurd. Despite that, there can be a 2-week wait for a dinner reservation. This upscale but affordable restaurant may be the least pretentious and most hip of Ducasse's ventures. The somewhat claustrophobic dining room blends Parisian and Californian references, and the menu (which changes every 2 months) roams the world. Examples include deliberately undercooked grilled squid (part of it evokes sushi) with curry sauce; grilled lamb cutlets; and spareribs with a devil's marmalade. Vegetarians appreciate stir-fried dishes in which you can mix and match up to 15 ingredients.

In the Hôtel Marignan-Elysée, 14 rue Marignan, 8e. ✆ **01-40-76-34-44.** www.spoon.tm.fr. Reservations recommended 1–2 weeks in advance. Main courses 28€–47€ ($41–$68); fixed-price lunch 47€ ($68). AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Fri noon–2pm and 7–10:30pm. Métro: Franklin-D-Roosevelt.

MODERATE

Chez André TRADITIONAL FRENCH Chez André is one of the neighborhood's favorite bistros with an ambience that evokes France in the 1950s and a clientele that includes everyday folk, as well as some of the most prosperous residents of this extremely upscale neighborhood. Outside, a discreet red awning stretches over an array of shellfish on ice; inside, an Art Nouveau decor includes etched glass and masses of flowers. This has been a landmark on rue Marbeuf since 1937. It remains as it was when it was founded (thanks to an agreement made with the original owners). The old-style cuisine on the menu includes pâté of thrush; frogs' legs; grilled veal kidneys; roast rack of lamb; fresh shellfish; and, on Fridays, bouillabaisse. Several reasonably priced wines are offered as well.

12 rue Marbeuf (at rue Clément-Marot), 8e. ✆ **01-47-20-59-57.** Reservations recommended. Main courses 18€–35€ ($26–$51); fixed-price menu 34€ ($49). AE, DC, MC, V. Daily noon–1am. Métro: Franklin-D-Roosevelt.

Ladurée TRADITIONAL FRENCH Acclaimed since 1862 as one of Paris's grand cafes, Ladurée adds a touch of class to the neighborhood. This offshoot of the original near La Madeleine caters to an international set. The stylish, somewhat chaotic venue changes from tearoom to full-fledged restaurant at least twice each day. The Belle Epoque setting is ideal for sampling Ladurée's macaroons—not the coconut version familiar to Americans, but two almond meringue cookies, flavored with vanilla, coffee, strawberry, pistachio, or another flavor, held together with butter cream. The talented chefs constantly adjust to take advantage of the freshest ingredients. After starting with the hot duck foie gras with crystallized dates, you might follow with sea scallops served with black rice or dolphin fish with lime and crunchy fennel, perhaps a lamb chop in spicy yogurt. One downside: Service isn't always efficient.

75 av. des Champs-Elysées, 8e. ✆ **01-40-75-08-75.** www.laduree.fr. Reservations required for restaurant. Main courses 29€–44€ ($42–$64); fixed-price lunch or dinner 34€ ($49); fixed-price breakfast 18€–27€ ($26–$39); pastries from 6€ ($8.70). AE, DC, MC, V. Daily 7:30am–1am. Métro: George V.

Les Gourmets des Ternes *Value* TRADITIONAL FRENCH This restaurant caters to hordes who appreciate its affordable prices and lack of pretension. Despite the brusque service, diners have included the mayor of Atlanta (who wrote the bistro a thank-you letter), Sean Penn, and Oliver Stone, as well as hundreds of folks from this neighborhood. Thriving in this spot since 1892, the place retains an early 1900s paneled decor, with some additions from the 1950s, including bordeaux-colored banquettes, mirrors, wooden

panels, touches of brass, and paper tablecloths. The finely grilled signature dishes include rib steak with marrow sauce and fries; sole meunière; sole, turbot, and monkfish; and desserts such as crème caramel and *baba au rhum* (rum cake with raisins).

87 bd. de Courcelles, 8e. ✆ **01-42-27-43-04.** www.lesgourmetsdesternes.com. Main courses 16€–35€ ($23–$51). AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm and 7–10pm. Métro: Ternes.

Market ✪ FUSION The creative force here is Alsatian Jean-Georges Vongerichten, whose restaurants in New York, Hong Kong, London, and Las Vegas are classified by local critics as both megahip and top tier. The Paris gemstone in the Vongerichten empire holds 130 diners in a richly paneled postmodern decor, designed by decorating mogul Christian Liaigre, dotted with carved masks from Oceania (Polynesia) and Borneo and with art objects on loan from the Paris branch of Christie's auction house. Menu items include a pizza with black truffles and Fontina cheese; foie gras with a purée of quince, corn pancakes, and wild cranberries; or crabmeat salad with mango. Main courses might feature *daurade* (bream or porgy) baked in a salt crust; a faux-filet with exotic mushrooms; or a "black plate" for two diners, loaded high with shellfish and their garnishes. There's a wine list that most oenophiles consider extremely interesting.

15 av. Matignon, 8e. ✆ **01-56-43-40-90.** Reservations required. Fixed-price lunch 34€ ($49); pizzas 19€–29€ ($28–$42); main courses 22€–40€ ($32–$58). AE, MC, V. Daily noon–3pm and 7:30–11:30pm; Sat–Sun brunch noon–4:30pm. Métro: Champs-Elysées–Clemenceau.

INEXPENSIVE

Bar des Théâtres TRADITIONAL FRENCH Its local patrons in the 8th arrondissement have long called this bar/restaurant "The Temple of the God Steak Tartare." For those daring souls who still eat this blood-rare red meat specialty, this long-established restaurant is said to make the best dish. Even though it's situated in the most lethally priced district of Paris, over the years it has kept its prices reasonable. Across the street is the Théâtre des Champs-Elysées, and many of its performers, especially actors and musicians, make the bar their "local" while appearing here. The chef also specializes in a delectable *magret de canard* (breast of duckling), and you can even order caviar and foie gras, but those items would put this into a very expensive category. Better settle for the sauerkraut.

6 av. Montaigne, 8e. ✆ **01-47-23-34-63.** Reservations recommended. Main courses 15€–25€ ($22–$36). AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Fri 6am–2am; Sat–Sun 10am–2am. Métro: Alma Marceau.

Chez Savy ★ *Value* AUVERGNAT Set within one of Paris's most stratospherically expensive neighborhoods, this old-time brasserie has prices that, compared to nearby competitors, seem modest. Founded in 1923 and with an old-fashioned bistro decor (mirrors, brass hardware, polished paneling, banquettes) that hasn't changed much since the Jazz Age, it has a pair of long and narrow dining rooms, the first of which is known as *le wagon* (the dining car). Come here for the kind of hearty, flavorful food that your great-grandmother (had she been from the Auvergne) would have prepared for a holiday meal around 1910. Sauces here are likely enriched with bone marrow; pork chitterlings are laboriously processed into earthy versions of *andouillettes;* and accompaniments to a main course might include a *petit farçou,* a thick crepe enriched with such green, leafy vegetables as chard, spinach, and leeks. Lamb here is superb, especially the slow-cooked haunches, cooked with rosemary until the meat is literally falling off the bone.

23 rue Bayard, 8e. ✆ **01-47-23-46-98.** Reservations recommended. Main courses 22€–28€ ($32–$41); fixed-price lunch 20€–24€ ($29–$35); fixed-price dinner 29€ ($42). AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm and 7:30–11pm. Closed Aug. Métro: Franklin-D-Roosevelt.

16TH ARRONDISSEMENT

EXPENSIVE

L'Astrance ★★★ MODERN FRENCH It's small, it's charming, and its creative flair derives from the partnership of two former employees (some say "disciples") of megachef Alain Passard, scion of L'Arpège, an ultraglam restaurant in the 7th arrondissement. The perfectly mannered Christophe Rohat, supervising the dining room, is the more visible of the two, but Pascal Barbot, the chef creating the food that emerges from the kitchens, has become a true culinary force. Expect a crisply contemporary dining room. The menu, from which flavors practically jump off the plates, might include an unusual form of "ravioli," wherein thin slices of avocado encase a filling of seasoned crabmeat, all of it accompanied by salted almonds and a splash of almond oil. Other delights to the palate include turbot flavored with lemon and ginger, or sautéed pigeon with potatoes au gratin.

4 rue Beethoven, 16e. ✆ **01-40-50-84-40.** Reservations required 3 or 4 weeks in advance. Main courses 24€–38€ ($35–$55); fixed-price lunch 45€–130€ ($65–$189); fixed-price dinner 50€–150€ ($73–$218). AE, DC, MC, V. Wed–Fri 12:30–1:30pm; Tues–Fri 8:30–11:45pm. Closed Aug. Métro: Trocadéro.

MODERATE

La Butte Chaillot ★ *Value* TRADITIONAL FRENCH This baby bistro showcases culinary high priest Guy Savoy and draws a crowd from the affluent neighborhood's corporate offices. Diners congregate in posh but congested areas. Menu items change weekly (sometimes daily) and betray a strange sense of mass production not unlike that found in a luxury cruise ship's dining room. You might begin with a terrine of rabbit studded with nuts and served with a red-onion compote or perhaps crayfish tartare flavored with lemon. For main dishes, filet of sea bass is served with green lentils from the Pyrenees, or else you might go for the duckling confit with mushrooms.

110 bis av. Kléber, 16e. ✆ **01-47-27-88-88.** www.buttechaillot.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses 16€–27€ ($23–$39); fixed-price menus 33€ ($48). AE, DC, MC, V. Sun–Fri noon–2:30pm; daily 7–11pm. Métro: Trocadéro.

INEXPENSIVE

Kambodgia ASIAN/CAMBODIAN The waiters, all dressed in black cotton tunics, will welcome you to this excellent eatery that serves some of the best and most flavorful Asian dishes in Paris. The basement atmosphere has been called "Zen-like," but the service is welcoming, and it's a good choice for a romantic dinner not far from the Champs-Elysées. Two of our favorite dishes: a superb seafood *pot-au-feu* (stew) and chicken roasted with honey and lemon. One Cambodian dish that's a delight is the ginger fish wrapped in a banana leaf.

15 rue de Bassano, 16e. ✆ **01-47-23-31-80.** www.kambodgia.com. Reservations required. Main courses 15€–22€ ($22–$32); fixed-price lunch 19€–24€ ($28–$35). AE, MC, V. Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm; Mon–Sat 7:30–10:30pm. Closed Aug. Métro: George V.

3 On the Left Bank

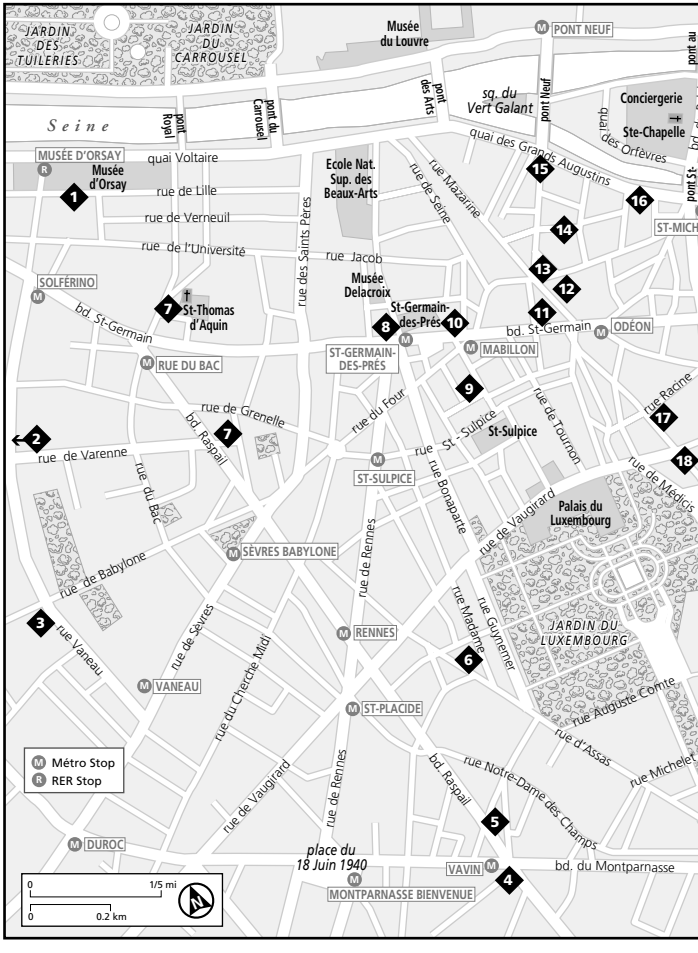
We'll begin with the most centrally located arrondissements on the Left Bank and then work our way through the more outlying neighborhoods and to the area near the Eiffel Tower.

5TH ARRONDISSEMENT

MODERATE

Brasserie Balzar ★ TRADITIONAL FRENCH Opened in 1898, Brasserie Balzar is battered but cheerful, with some of Paris's most colorful waiters. The menu makes almost no concessions to modern cuisine; it includes onion soup, pepper steak, sole meunière, sauerkraut with ham and sausage, pigs' feet, and fried calves' liver served without garnish. Be warned that if you want just coffee or a

Restaurants in the Heart of the Left Bank



drink, you probably won't get a table at mealtimes. But the staff, accustomed to many patrons' odd hours, will be happy to serve you dinner in the midafternoon. Guests have included Sartre and Camus (who often got into arguments), James Thurber, and countless professors from the nearby Sorbonne.

49 rue des Ecoles, 5e. ✆ **01-43-54-13-67.** www.brasseriebalzar.com. Reservations strongly recommended. Main courses 18€–35€ ($26–$51). AE, DC, MC, V. Daily noon–11:45pm. Métro: Odéon or Cluny–La Sorbonne.

Alcazar Restaurant **11**
Allard **13**
Au Pied de Fouet **3**
Aux Charpentiers **9**
Brasserie Balzar **19**
Breakfast in America **22**
Café de Flore **8**
Chez Gramond **6**
Chez L'Ami Jean **2**
Coco de Mer **23**
Crémerie-Restaurant Polidor **18**
L'Arpége **2**
La Bastide Odéon **17**
La Coupole **4**
La Palette **15**
La Petite Chaise **7**
La Rôtisserie d'en Face **14**
Le Petit Pontoise **21**
Le Pré Verre **20**
Le Procope **12**
Les Deux Magots **10**
Le Violon d'Ingres **2**
Marty **24**
Restaurant du Musée d'Orsay **1**
Sensing **5**
Ze Kitchen Galerie **16**

Le Petit Pontoise ★ *Finds* TRADITIONAL FRENCH Lying on a little-visited side street, off quai de la Tournelle, this restaurant is frequented by both professors and students from the Sorbonne. It's tiny, but the portions are big and generous. The clientele—often made up of regulars—is pampered with comfort food. Fine ingredients and a technique honed to perfection have made this a citadel of fine dining. You could take your grandmother here, even your great-grandmother, and she would likely be pleased with the roast quail

with almonds or the fresh chicken cooked in wine and mushrooms. Tender, well-flavored duckling comes with foie gras, and you can also take delight in the stew of pigs' cheeks and fresh vegetables, served in an iron casserole.

9 rue de Pontoise, 5e. ✆ **01-43-29-25-20.** Main courses 16€–24€ ($23–$35). AE, MC, V. Daily noon–2:30pm and 7:30–10:30pm. Métro: Maubert-Mutualité.

Le Pré Verre ★ *Value* ASIAN/TRADITIONAL FRENCH Around the corner from the Sorbonne in the heart of the Latin Quarter comes a refreshing restaurant where you can get seriously good food—all for an affordable price. Even if this is not an earth-shattering gastronomic experience, it is solid and reliable, with good cooking and market-fresh ingredients. The Delacourcelle brothers are firmly based in the French tradition, but they have added innovative modern twists by giving extra spicing to the food, many of the flavorings inspired by Asia. In a welcoming, relaxed, and convivial atmosphere, tables are placed so close together that you're literally dining and rubbing elbows with the same people. For something bourgeois, dig into the well-flavored terrines for starters. One of these—and the most delectable—is made with layers of foie gras and mashed potatoes. Your meal might begin with oysters marinated with ginger and poppy seeds or scallops with cinnamon. Main courses might include suckling pig with aromatic spices and crisp-cooked cabbage, or roasted codfish.

8 rue Thenard, 5e. ✆ **01-43-54-59-47.** www.lepreverre.com. Reservations required. Fixed-price menu at lunch 14€–28€ ($20–$41), at dinner 28€ ($41). MC, V. Tues–Sat noon–2pm and 7:30–10pm. Closed Aug. Métro: Maubert-Mutualité.

Marty ★ *Finds* MODERN FRENCH Charming, with a stone-trimmed decor that's authentic to the era (1913) when it was established, this restaurant has been "discovered" by new generations of restaurant-goers. Named after its founders, Etienne and Marthe Marty, its fame now extends beyond the 5th arrondissement. Service is attentive, and lots of Jazz Age murals grace the walls. Food is savory, satisfying, and unfussy. Views from the hideaway tables on the mezzanine sweep over the entire human comedy, which is loud, large, and animated, unfolding above and below you. Begin a meal with duckling terrine or Andalusian gazpacho. Continue with suprême of guinea fowl with vegetable moussaka, a rump steak in black pepper sauce, or perhaps fried scallops sautéed in the Provençal style.

20 av. des Gobelins, 5e. ✆ **01-43-31-39-51.** www.marty-restaurant.com. Main courses 21€–33€ ($30–$48); fixed-price menu 34€ ($49). AE, DC, MC, V. Daily noon–3pm and 7–11pm. Métro: Gobelins.

INEXPENSIVE

Breakfast in America AMERICAN Connecticut-born Hollywood screenwriter Craig Carlson opened this replica of a down-home U.S.-based diner in 2003, building it with funds from members of the California film community who donated memorabilia from their films. Its self-proclaimed mission involves dispensing proper, rib-sticking American breakfasts and diner food to a generation of Parisians who assume, prior to their visits here, that coffee comes only as espresso, and that quantities, per meal, are rigidly limited. The venue replicates a 1950s-era railway car, replete with scarlet-and-black Naugahyde banquettes, faux windows with mirrored insets, and an unabashedly Americanized staff. Breakfast (heaping portions of the egg-and-waffle-and-bacon combinations, as well as omelets) is served throughout the day and evening. Also available are half a dozen variations of burgers, as well as tacos, club sandwiches, and BLTs.

17 rue des Ecoles, 5e. ✆ **01-43-54-50-28.** Reservations not accepted. Breakfast platters 6.50€–11€ ($9.40–$16); fixed-price Sunday brunch 15€ ($22); lunch and dinner platters and "blue-plate specials" 8.50€–12€ ($12–$17). MC, V. Daily 8:30am–10:30pm. Métro: Cardinal Lemoine or Jussieu.

Coco de Mer ★ *Finds* SEYCHELLE ISLANDS The theme of this restaurant tugs at the emotions of Parisians who have spent their holidays on the beaches of the Seychelles, in the Indian Ocean. It contains several dining rooms, one of which is outfitted like a beach, with a sand-covered floor, replicas of palm trees, and a scattering of conch shells. Menu items feature such exotic dishes as tartare of tuna flavored with ginger, olive oil, salt, and pepper; and smoked swordfish, served as carpaccio or in thin slices with mango mousse and spicy sauce. Main courses focus on fish, including a species of red snapper *(boirzoes)* imported from the Seychelles.

34 bd. St-Marcel, 5e. ✆ **01-47-07-06-64.** Reservations recommended. Main courses 14€–20€ ($20–$29); fixed-price menus 23€–30€ ($33–$44). AE, DC, MC, V. Tues–Sat noon–3pm; Mon–Sat 7:30pm–midnight. Métro: Les Gobelins or St-Marcel.

6TH ARRONDISSEMENT

EXPENSIVE

Sensing ★★ MODERN FRENCH This eatery is devoted to the five senses. One of the most famous chefs in Paris, Guy Martin, who continues to enjoy his three stars granted by Michelin at Grand Véfour, is also the inspiration for this chicly modern Left Bank restaurant. Wisely, he's hired a talented on-site chef, Rémy Van Péthegem, to rattle those pots and pans, and he's full of innovative surprises.

The decor relies on video projections on the walls and blond sycamore tables. Videos celebrate women's beauty, showing lips, curvature of the shoulder, hairdos, and eyes, as well as fields of blooming flowers. When plates are served, they are like statements from a museum of modern art—geometric arrangements of rectangles and cylinders along with Miró-like squiggles of sauce. Dishes are sublime, ranging from herb-crusted veal with tubes of macaroni stuffed with fresh mushrooms to fresh squab coated with a muscovado sugar caramel crust.

19 rue Bréa, 6e. ✆ **01-43-27-08-80.** Reservations required. Main courses 33€–37€ ($48–$54); fixed-price lunch 55€ ($80); 7-course fixed-price dinner 55€ ($80). AE, MC, V. Tues–Sat noon–2:30pm; Mon–Sat 7:30–10:30pm. Closed Aug. Métro: Vavin.

MODERATE

Alcazar Restaurant ✪ MODERN FRENCH Paris's highest-profile *brasserie de luxe* is this high-tech place funded by British restaurateur Sir Terence Conran. It features a red-and-white futuristic decor in a street-level dining room and a busy upstairs bar (La Mezzanine de l'Alcazar). The menu includes rack of veal sautéed with wild mushrooms, roasted rack of lamb with thyme, and shellfish and oysters from the waters of Brittany. The wines are as stylish and diverse as you'd expect.

62 rue Mazarine, 6e. ✆ **01-53-10-19-99.** Reservations recommended. Main courses 18€–32€ ($26–$46); fixed-price lunch 20€–30€ ($29–$44); fixed-price dinner 42€ ($61). AE, DC, MC, V. Daily noon–3pm and 7pm–midnight. Métro: Odéon.

Allard ✪ TRADITIONAL FRENCH This old-time bistro, opened in 1931, is still going strong. It was once the city's leading bistro, although today the competition is too great for it to reclaim that reputation. Over the years, the front room's zinc bar has been a haven for many celebrities, including Mme Pompidou; actor Alain Delon; and, since then, a gaggle of French celebrities. Allard serves all the old specialties, with quality ingredients deftly handled by the kitchen. Try snails, foie gras, Challans duck with olives, or frogs' legs or turbot in a *beurre blanc* sauce. We head here on Monday for the cassoulet Toulousian (casserole of white beans and goose and other meats) and on Saturday for *coq au vin*.

41 rue St-André-des-Arts, 6e. ✆ **01-43-26-48-23.** Reservations required. Main courses 19€–39€ ($28–$57); fixed-price menu 25€ ($36) at lunch; fixed-price dinner 34€ ($49). AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Sat noon–3pm and 7:30–11pm. Métro: St-Michel or Odéon.

Chez Gramond ★ *Finds* TRADITIONAL FRENCH Aficionados of the way France used to be seek out this place, and if you're looking for the kind of cuisine that used to satisfy the *grands intellectuels* of the Latin Quarter in the 1960s, you might find it appealing. It seats only 20 people, each of whom is treated to the savoir-faire of Auvergne-born Jean-Claude Gramond and his wife, Jeannine. Listed in purple ink that's duplicated on an old-time mimeograph machine, the menu items may include at various times a marinade of mushrooms with coriander; a *navarin* (rich stew) of lamb with scotch beans; roasted grouse with figs; scallops cooked with white wine, leeks, and shallots; partridge (this is increasingly rare and expensive) served with an *émincé* (shredded mixture) of cabbage; sautéed pheasant with a Calvados-flavored cream sauce; two different preparations of rabbit, one of which is a traditional *civet* (a wild hare); or duckling with orange sauce.

5 rue de Fleurus, 6e. ✆ **01-42-22-28-89.** Reservations recommended. Main courses 23€–35€ ($33–$51). MC, V. Mon–Sat noon–2:30pm and 7–10:30pm. Closed in Aug. Métro: Notre-Dame des Champs.

La Rôtisserie d'en Face ★ *Value* TRADITIONAL FRENCH This is Paris's most popular baby bistro, operated by Jacques Cagna, whose expensive namesake restaurant is across the street. The informal place features a postmodern decor with high-tech lighting, yellow walls, and red banquettes. The simply prepared food is very good and employs high-quality ingredients. Tantalizing starters include red tuna and sea bream tartare flavored with ginger and soya or else rabbit pâté with pine kernels. Main dish favorites include the signature spit-roasted, free-range chicken served with the traditional buttery mashed potatoes. Other mains include cold grilled salmon with coriander-marinated fresh vegetables. Few desserts top "the red berry bowl," with Cassis sauce and whipped cream.

2 rue Christine, 6e. ✆ **01-43-26-40-98.** Reservations recommended. Main courses 22€ ($32); fixed-price menu 25€–29€ ($36–$42). AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm; Mon–Sat 7–11pm. Métro: Odéon or St-Michel.

Ze Kitchen Galerie ★ *Finds* INTERNATIONAL/MODERN FRENCH The owner and head chef of this restaurant, William Ledeuil, trained in haute Parisian gastronomy under culinary czar Guy Savoy. The setting is a colorful loft space in an antique building, with an open-to-view showcase kitchen. Most of the paintings on display are for sale (the place doubles as an art gallery). Menu items, as with the paintings, change about every 5 weeks; appetizers are subdivided into pastas, soups, and fish; and main courses are

divided into meats and fish that are usually *à la plancha* (grilled). For starters, ever had beet gazpacho with candied ginger, cucumber, and fresh shrimp? The grilled chicken and veal sweetbreads with a carrot-and-mustard jus (flavored with ginger) are heavenly, as are platters of oysters, mussels, and sea urchins. Sometimes grilled shoulder of wild boar with tamarind sauce is featured. A meal might also be followed with the restaurant's "cappuccino of the month," a frothy dessert concoction with ingredients that change with the seasons.

4 rue des Grands-Augustins, 6e. ✆ **01-44-32-00-32.** Reservations recommended. Main courses 26€–30€ ($38–$44); fixed-price lunch with wine 24€–35€ ($35–$51). AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Fri noon–2:30pm; Mon–Sat 7–11pm. Métro: St-Michel.

INEXPENSIVE

Aux Charpentiers TRADITIONAL FRENCH This old bistro, which opened more than 130 years ago, attracts those seeking the Left Bank of yesteryear. It was once the rendezvous spot of the master carpenters, whose guild was next door. Nowadays, it's where young men take dates. Though the food isn't imaginative, it's well prepared in the best tradition of *cuisine bourgeoise*—hearty but not effete. Appetizers include pâté of duck and rabbit terrine. Recommended as a main course is roast duck with olives. The *plats du jour* recall French home cooking: salt pork with lentils, *pot-au-feu,* and stuffed cabbage. The wine list has a selection of bordeaux, including Château Gaussens.

10 rue Mabillon, 6e. ✆ **01-43-26-30-05.** Reservations required. Main courses 19€–26€ ($28–$38); fixed-price lunch 20€ ($29); fixed-price dinner 27€ ($39). AE, DC, MC, V. Daily noon–3pm and 7–11:30pm. Métro: St-Germain-des-Prés or Mabillon.

Crémerie-Restaurant Polidor ★ *Kids* TRADITIONAL FRENCH Crémerie Polidor is the most traditional bistro in the Odéon area, serving *cuisine familiale.* Its name dates from the early 1900s, when it specialized in frosted cream desserts, but the restaurant can trace its history to 1845. The Crémerie was André Gide's favorite, and Joyce, Hemingway, Valéry, Artaud, and Kerouac also dined here. Peer beyond the lace curtains and brass hat racks to see drawers where in olden days, regular customers used to lock up their cloth napkins. Try the day's soup followed by kidneys in Madeira sauce, *boeuf bourguignon, confit de canard,* or *blanquette de veau.* For dessert, order a chocolate, raspberry, or lemon tart.

41 rue Monsieur-le-Prince, 6e. ✆ **01-43-26-95-34.** Main courses 11€–22€ ($16–$32); fixed-price menus 22€–32€ ($32–$46). No credit cards. Daily noon–2:30pm; Mon–Sat 7pm–12:30am; Sun 7–11pm. Métro: Odéon.

La Bastide Odéon ★ *Finds* PROVENÇAL The sunny climes of Provence come through in the pale yellow walls, oak tables, and bouquets of wheat and dried roses. Chef Gilles Ajuelos prepares a market-based cuisine. His simplest first courses are the most satisfying, such as pumpkin soup with oysters and mussels, and eggplant-stuffed roasted rabbit with olive toast and balsamic vinegar. Main courses include a warm napoleon of grilled eggplant served "in the style of the Riviera," and roasted chicken with a confit of Provençal garlic and fried potatoes.

7 rue Corneille, 6e. ✆ **01-43-26-03-65.** www.bastide-odeon.com. Reservations recommended. Main courses 21€ ($30); fixed-price lunch 26€–41€ ($38–$59). AE, MC, V. Tues–Sat 12:30–2pm and 7:30–10:30pm. Métro: Odéon. RER: Luxembourg.

7TH ARRONDISSEMENT

VERY EXPENSIVE

L'Arpège ★★★ MODERN FRENCH L'Arpège is best known for Alain Passard's specialties—no restaurant in the 7th serves better food. Surrounded by etched glass, burnished steel, monochromatic oil paintings, and pearwood paneling, you can enjoy such specialties as couscous of vegetables and shellfish, lobster braised in the yellow wine of the Jura, braised monkfish in an Orléans mustard sauce, pigeon roasted with almonds and honey-flavored mead, and carpaccio of crayfish with caviar-flavored cream sauce. Although Passard is loath to include red meat on his menus, Kobe beef and venison sometimes appear. He focuses on fish, shellfish, poultry, and his passion—vegetables. These he elevates to levels unequaled by any other chef in Paris.

84 rue de Varenne, 7e. ✆ **01-47-05-09-06.** Fax 01-44-18-98-39. www.alain-passard.com. Reservations required 2 weeks in advance. Main courses 48€–180€ ($70–$261). AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Fri 12:30–2:30pm and 8–10:30pm. Métro: Varenne.

EXPENSIVE

Le Violon d'Ingres ★★★ MODERN FRENCH This restaurant is Paris's pièce de résistance. Chef-owner Christian Constant is "the new Robuchon." Those fortunate enough to dine in Violon's warm atmosphere rave about the artistic dishes. They range from wood pigeon cooked on the grill and served with a fricassee of mushrooms to such hearty fare as veal's head with the tongue and brain poached in a sauce of capers and hard-boiled eggs. If you're not man (or woman) enough for that, you can opt for the spit-roasted turbot with baby vegetables or the Norman seabass with almonds and a sauce ravigote. The service is charming and discreet; the wine selection, well chosen. The Constant family has tied up the dining rituals along this street, with less expensive, less formal restaurants flanking Le Violon d'Ingres.

135 rue St-Dominique, 7e. ✆ **01-45-55-15-05.** Fax 01-45-55-48-42. Reservations required at least 2 days in advance. Main courses 26€–38€ ($38–$55); *menu dégustation* 65€ ($94); fixed-price lunch 50€–110€ ($73–$160); fixed-price dinner 80€–110€ ($116–$160). AE, DC, MC, V. Tues–Sat noon–2:30pm and 7–10:30pm. Métro: Invalides or Ecole-Militaire.

MODERATE

La Petite Chaise TRADITIONAL FRENCH This is Paris's oldest restaurant, opened as an inn in 1680 by the baron de la Chaise at the edge of a hunting preserve. (According to lore, the baron used the upstairs bedrooms for afternoon dalliances, between fox and pheasant hunts.) Very Parisian, the "Little Chair" invites you into a world of cramped but attractive tables, old wood paneling, and ornate wall sconces. A vigorous chef has brought renewed taste and flavor to this longtime favorite, and the four-course set menu offers a large choice of dishes in each category. Examples are *magret* (breast) of duck with sweet-and-sour sauce, *pot-au-feu* whose ingredients change with the seasons, and grilled sea bass on a bed of fennel with a light butter sauce.

36 rue de Grenelle, 7e. ✆ **01-42-22-13-35.** Reservations recommended. Main courses all 19€ ($28). Fixed-price menu 32€ ($46). MC, V. Daily noon–2pm and 7–11pm. Métro: Sèvres-Babylone or Rue du Bac.

Restaurant du Musée d'Orsay MODERN FRENCH If you can overlook the hysterical and rude staff—a big if—you can treat yourself to a sumptuous Belle Epoque dining room overlooking the Seine. Perhaps Marcel Proust and his gay comrades once sat under the magnificent frescoed ceiling. In such a glamorous setting, you can enjoy a traditional cuisine, though it has been given a decidedly modern interpretation. Escoffier it isn't. The best bargain is the two-course *prix fixe* lunch.

If not lunch, you can use the romantic setting for afternoon tea after you've had a feast of the Impressionists. The menu is ever changing, but basically it consists of a more simplified version of a traditional French cuisine. Expect such savory dishes as grilled sea bream filet or perhaps the duck and peaches supreme served with *gratin dauphinois.*

1 rue de Bellechasse, 7e. ✆ **01-45-49-42-33.** Reservations recommended. 2-course lunch 15€ ($22); Sun brunch 23€ ($33); Thurs evening gourmet menu 38€ ($55); children's menu 7.10€ ($10). AE, MC, V. Tues–Sun 11:45am–2:45pm. Tea 2:45–5:30pm. Dinner only Thurs 7–9:15pm. Métro: Solférino. RER: Musée d'Orsay.

INEXPENSIVE

Au Pied de Fouet TRADITIONAL FRENCH This is one of the neighborhood's oldest and most reasonably priced restaurants. In the

1700s, it was a stopover for carriages en route to Paris, offering wine, food, and stables. Don't expect a leisurely or attentive meal: Food and drink will disappear quickly from your table, under the gaze of others awaiting their turn. The dishes are solid and unpretentious and include *blanquette de veau* (veal stew), chicken in vinegar sauce (a house specialty), *petit salé* (a savory family style stew made from pork and vegetables and served with lentils), and filet of sea wolf or filet of codfish. If you demand a polite staff, go elsewhere. The waiters are among the rudest in Paris. Some visitors claim that's part of the charm of this place. You decide.

45 rue de Babylone, 7e. ✆ **01-47-05-12-27.** Main courses 10€–12€ ($15–$17). MC, V. Mon–Sat noon–2:30pm and 7–9:30pm. Closed Aug. Métro: Vaneau.

Chez l'Ami Jean BASQUE/SOUTHWESTERN FRENCH This restaurant was opened by a Basque nationalist in 1931, and fans claim its Basque cuisine and setting are the most authentic on the Left Bank. Decorative details include wood panels; memorabilia from *pelote* (a Basque game similar to jai alai), rugby, and soccer. Dishes include Bayonne ham; herb-laden Béarn-influenced vegetable soups; confit of duck with small sautéed potatoes; and fine slices of veal with fresh herbs, onions, red peppers, and a light tomato sauce. In springtime, look for a specialty rarely found elsewhere: *saumon de l'Adour* (Adour salmon) with béarnaise sauce.

27 rue Malar, 7e. ✆ **01-47-05-86-89.** Reservations recommended. Main courses 25€–45€ ($36–$65); 3-course Basque dinner 32€ ($46). MC, V. Tues–Sat noon–2pm and 7pm–midnight. Closed Aug. Métro: Invalides.

4 The Top Cafes

As surely everyone knows, the cafe is a Parisian institution. Parisians use cafes as combination club/tavern/snack bars, almost as extensions of their living rooms. They're spots where you can sit alone reading your newspaper, doing your homework, or writing your memoirs; meet a friend or lover; nibble on a hard-boiled egg; or drink yourself into oblivion. At cafes, you meet your dates and then go on to a show or stay and talk. Above all, cafes are for people-watching.

Coffee, of course, is the chief drink. It comes black, in a small cup, unless you specifically order it *au lait* (with milk). *Thé* (tea, pronounced *tay*) is also fairly popular but generally not high quality. If you prefer beer, we advise you to pay a bit more for the imported German, Dutch, or Danish brands, which are much better than the local brew. If you insist on a French beer, at least order it *à pression*

(draft), which is superior. There's also a vast variety of fruit drinks, as well as Coca-Cola, which can be rather expensive. French chocolate drinks—either hot or iced—are absolutely superb and on par with the finest Dutch brands. They're made from ground chocolate, not a chemical compound.

Now, just a few words on cafe etiquette: You don't pay when you get your order—only when you intend to leave. Payment indicates you've had all you want. *Service compris* means the tip is included in your bill, so it isn't necessary to tip extra; still, most people leave an extra euro or so. You'll hear the locals call for the *garçon,* but as a foreigner, it would be more polite to say *monsieur.* All waitresses, on the other hand, are addressed as *mademoiselle,* regardless of age or marital status. In the smaller cafes, you may have to share your table. In that case, even if you haven't exchanged a word with your table companion, when you leave it's customary to bid him or her *au revoir.*

EXPENSIVE

Café de Flore ★★ It's the most famous cafe in the world, still fighting to maintain a Left Bank aura despite hordes of visitors from around the world. Sartre—the granddaddy of existentialism, a key figure in the Resistance, and a renowned cafe-sitter—often came here during World War II. Wearing a leather jacket and beret, he sat and wrote his trilogy *Les Chemins de la Liberté (The Roads to Freedom).* Camus, Picasso, and Apollinaire also frequented the Flore. The cafe is still going strong, though the famous patrons have moved on and tourists have taken up all the tables. According to the spokeswoman: "We will never change the decor." The menu offers omelets, salads, club sandwiches, and more.

172 bd. St-Germain, 6e. ✆ **01-45-48-55-26.** www.cafe-de-flore.com. Café espresso 4.60€ ($6.70); glass of beer 9€ ($13); snacks from 16€ ($23); full meal 25€–45€ ($36–$65). AE, DC, MC, V. Daily 7:30am–1:30am. Métro: St-Germain-des-Prés.

Fouquet's ★ For people-watching, this is definitely on the see-and-be-seen circuit. Fouquet's has been collecting anecdotes and a patina since it was founded in 1901. A celebrity favorite, it has attracted Chaplin, Chevalier, Dietrich, Churchill, Roosevelt, and Jackie Onassis. The premier cafe on the Champs-Elysées sits behind a barricade of potted flowers at the edge of the sidewalk. Today, it's owned by the well-managed hotel and dining conglomerate Lucien Barrière. You can choose a table in the sunshine or retreat to the glassed-in elegance of the leather banquettes and rattan furniture of the grillroom. This is a full-fledged restaurant, with a beautiful formal dining room on the second floor.

99 av. des Champs-Elysées, 8e. ✆ **01-47-23-50-00.** Glass of wine from 9€ ($13); sandwiches 10€–21€ ($15–$30); main courses 20€–55€ ($29–$80); fixed-price lunch or dinner 78€ ($113). AE, DC, MC, V. Daily 8am–2am. Restaurant daily noon–3pm and 7pm–12:30am; bar and brasserie 7:30am–2am. Métro: George V.

MODERATE

Café Beaubourg Next to the all-pedestrian plaza of the Centre Pompidou, this is a trendy cafe with soaring concrete columns and a minimalist decor. Many of the regulars work in the neighborhood's eclectic shops and galleries. You can order salads, omelets, grilled steak, chicken *cordon bleu,* pastries, and daily platters. In warm weather, tables are set up on the sprawling outdoor terrace, providing an appropriate niche for watching the young and the restless go by.

100 rue St-Martin, 4e. ✆ **01-48-87-63-96.** Glass of wine 5€–9€ ($7.30–$13); beer 6€–7.50€ ($8.70–$11); American breakfast 15€–24€ ($22–$35); sandwiches and platters 12€–25€ ($17–$36). AE, DC, MC, V. Mon–Fri 8am–1am; Sat–Sun 8am–2am. Métro: Rambuteau or Hôtel-de-Ville.

Café de la Musique This cafe's location, in one of the grandest of Mitterrand's *grands travaux,* guarantees a crowd passionately devoted to music; the recorded sounds that play in the background are likely to be more diverse and more eclectic than those in any other cafe in Paris. The red-and-green velour setting might remind you of a modern opera house. Although it originated in the late 1990s as a cafe serving light platters, sandwiches, and drinks, its cuisine became dramatically more sophisticated in 2002, the year it was taken over by culinary legend and nightlife impresario Alain Poudou. The menu was inspired by the cuisine served in one of Paris's trendiest hotels, the Costes, and is likely to include lobster-studded risotto, roasted rack of lamb with thyme, fresh salads of the type you'd find in Italy, brochettes of shrimp with spinach, and baked salmon in a white-wine cream sauce. As the evening progresses, this place takes on more of the ambience of a hip nightclub as DJs spin various kinds of music.

In the Cité de la Musique, place Fontaine aux Lions, 213 av. Jean-Jaurès, 19e. ✆ **01-48-03-15-91.** www.cite-musique.fr. Main courses 10€–28€ ($15–$41). AE, DC, MC, V. Daily 8am–2am; restaurant daily 8am–1am. Métro: Porte de Pantin.

La Coupole ★ Born in 1927 and once a leading center of artistic life, La Coupole is now the epitome of the grand Paris brasserie in Montparnasse. Former patrons included Josephine Baker, Henry Miller, Dalí, Calder, Hemingway, Fitzgerald, and Picasso. At one of its sidewalk tables, you can sit and watch the passing scene and order a coffee or a cognac VSOP. The food is quite good, despite the fact that the dining room resembles an enormous rail-station waiting

room. Try main dishes such as sole meunière, a very good rump steak, fresh oysters, shellfish, grilled lobster with flambéed whisky sauce, or curried lamb. The waiters are as rude and inattentive as ever, and the patrons would have it no other way.

102 bd. du Montparnasse, 14e. ✆ **01-43-20-14-20.** www.flobrasseries.com. Breakfast buffet 14€–19€ ($20–$28); main courses 20€–40€ ($29–$58); fixed-price lunch 19€–24€ ($28–$35), dinner 32€ ($46). AE, DC, MC, V. Daily 8:30am–1am (breakfast buffet Mon–Fri 8:30–10:30am). Métro: Vavin.

La Palette ★★ The staff here defiantly maintains old-fashioned Parisian traditions that haven't changed much since the days of Picasso and Braque—the same drinks (Ricard and Pernod, among others) are still popular. A bustle of comings and goings makes La Palette an insider's version of a battered, artistically evocative Latin Quarter cafe. The interior, inhabited by amiably crotchety waiters, consists of tiled murals, installed around 1935, advertising the virtues of a brand of liqueur that's no longer manufactured. If you happen to drop in during mealtime, you'll have a limited selection of salads and *croque monsieur* (toasted ham and cheese), plus one *plat du jour* per day, always priced at 12€ ($17), which may include roast beef, lamb stew, fish, and gigot of lamb. The food is well prepared, and the dish of the day is usually announced as a kind of surprise to the joint's devoted fans.

43 rue de Seine, 6e. ✆ **01-43-26-68-15.** Sandwiches, omelets, and *plats du jour* 6€–15€ ($8.70–$22). MC, V. Cafe and bar Mon–Sat 9am–2am; restaurant Mon–Sat 11:30am–3pm. Métro: Mabillon or St-Germain-des-Prés.

Le Procope ★★ To fans of French history, this is the holy grail of Parisian cafes. Opened in 1686, it occupies a three-story town house categorized as a historic monument. Inside, nine salons and dining rooms, each of whose 300-year-old walls have been carefully preserved and painted a deep red, are available for languorous afternoon coffee breaks or well-presented meals. Menu items include platters of shellfish, onion soup au gratin, *coq au vin* (chicken stewed in wine), duck breast in honey sauce, and grilled versions of various meats and fish. Every day between 3 and 7pm, the place makes itself available to sightseers who come to look but not necessarily eat and drink at the site that welcomed such movers and shakers as Diderot, Voltaire, George Sand, Victor Hugo, and Oscar Wilde. Of special charm is the ground-floor room outfitted like an antique library.

13 rue de l'Ancienne-Comédie, 6e. ✆ **01-40-46-79-00.** www.procope.com. Reservations recommended. Coffee 2.95€ ($4.30); glass of beer 4.80€–7€ ($7–$10); main courses 16€–47€ ($23–$68). AE, DC, MC, V. Daily noon–midnight. Métro: Odéon.

Les Deux Magots ★★ This legendary hangout for the sophisticated residents of St-Germain-des-Prés becomes a tourist favorite in summer. Visitors monopolize the few sidewalk tables as the waiters rush about, seemingly oblivious to anyone's needs. Regulars from around the neighborhood reclaim it in the off season. Les Deux Magots was once a gathering place of the intellectual elite, such as Sartre, de Beauvoir, and Giraudoux. Inside are the two large statues of *magots* (Confucian wise men) that give the cafe its name. The crystal chandeliers are too brightly lit, but the regulars are used to the glare. After all, some of them even read their daily papers here. You can order salads, pastries, ice cream, or one of the daily specials; the fresh fish is usually good.

6 place St-Germain-des-Prés, 6e. ✆ **01-45-48-55-25.** www.lesdeuxmagots.fr. Café au lait 5€ ($7.30); whisky soda 12€–16€ ($17–$23); main courses 19€–34€ ($28–$49). AE, DC, V. Daily 7:30am–1:30am. Métro: St-Germain-des-Prés.

4

Exploring Paris

Paris is a city where taking in the street life—shopping, strolling, and hanging out—should claim as much of your time as sightseeing in churches or museums. Having a picnic in the Bois de Boulogne, taking a sunrise stroll along the Seine, spending an afternoon at a flea market—Paris bewitches you with these kinds of experiences. For all the Louvre's beauty, you'll probably remember the Latin Quarter's crooked alleyways better than the 370th oil painting of your visit.

1 The Top Attractions: From the Arc de Triomphe to the Tour Eiffel

Arc de Triomphe ★★★ At the western end of the Champs-Elysées, the Arc de Triomphe suggests an ancient Roman arch, only it's larger. Actually, it's the biggest triumphal arch in the world, about 49m (161 ft.) high and 44m (144 ft.) wide. To reach it, *don't try to cross the square,* Paris's busiest traffic hub. With a dozen streets radiating from the "Star," the roundabout has been called by one writer "vehicular roulette with more balls than numbers" (death is certain!). Take the underground passage, and live a little longer.

Commissioned by Napoleon in 1806 to commemorate the victories of his Grand Armée, the arch wasn't ready for the entrance of his empress, Marie-Louise, in 1810 (he had divorced Joséphine because she couldn't provide him an heir). It wasn't completed until 1836, under the reign of Louis-Philippe. Four years later, Napoleon's remains, brought from St. Helena, passed under the arch on their journey to his tomb at the Hôtel des Invalides. Since that time, it has become the focal point for state funerals. It's also the site of the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, in whose honor an eternal flame burns.

The greatest state funeral was Victor Hugo's in 1885; his coffin was placed under the arch, and much of Paris came to pay tribute. Another notable funeral was in 1929 for Ferdinand Foch, commander of the Allied forces in World War I. The arch has been the centerpiece of some of France's proudest moments and some of its most humiliating defeats, notably in 1871 and 1940. The memory

of German troops marching under the arch is still painful to the French. Who can forget the 1940 newsreel of the Frenchman standing on the Champs-Elysées weeping as the Nazi storm troopers goose-stepped through Paris? The arch's happiest moment occurred in 1944, when the liberation-of-Paris parade passed beneath it. That same year, Eisenhower paid a visit to the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a new tradition among leaders of state and important figures. After Charles de Gaulle's death, the French government (despite protests from anti-Gaullists) voted to change the name of this site from place de l'Etoile to place Charles de Gaulle. Nowadays it's often known as place Charles de Gaulle–Etoile.

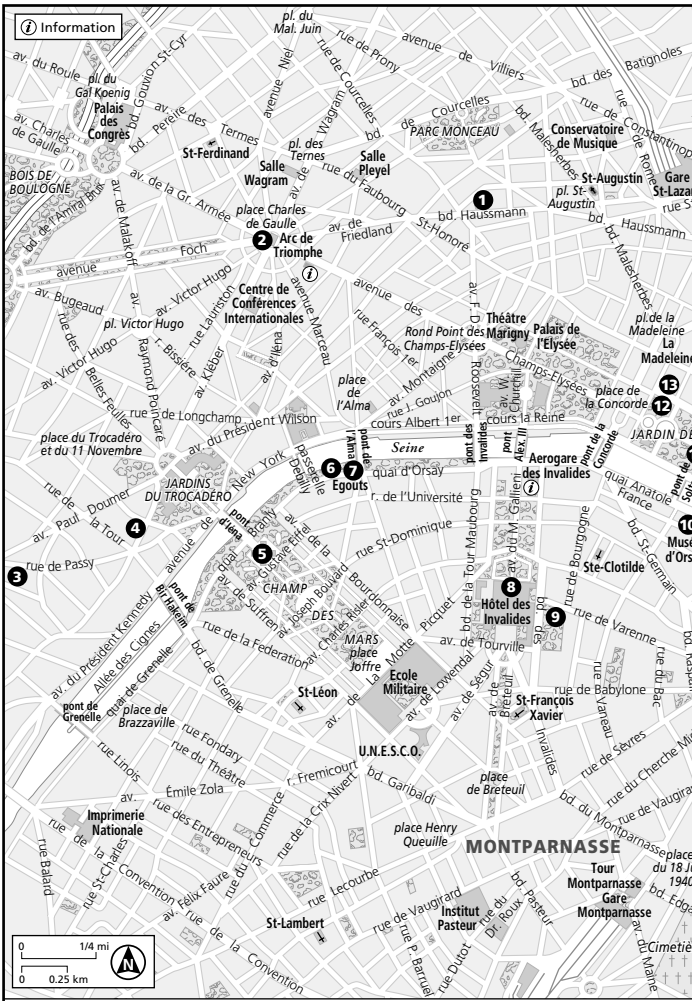
Of the sculptures on the monument, the best known is Rude's *Marseillaise,* or *The Departure of the Volunteers.* J. P. Cortot's *Triumph of Napoléon in 1810* and Etex's *Resistance of 1814* and *Peace of 1815* also adorn the facade. The monument is engraved with the names of hundreds of generals (those underlined died in battle) who commanded French troops in Napoleonic victories.

You can take an elevator or climb the stairway to the top, where there's an exhibition hall with lithographs and photos depicting the arch throughout its history, as well as an observation deck with a fantastic view.

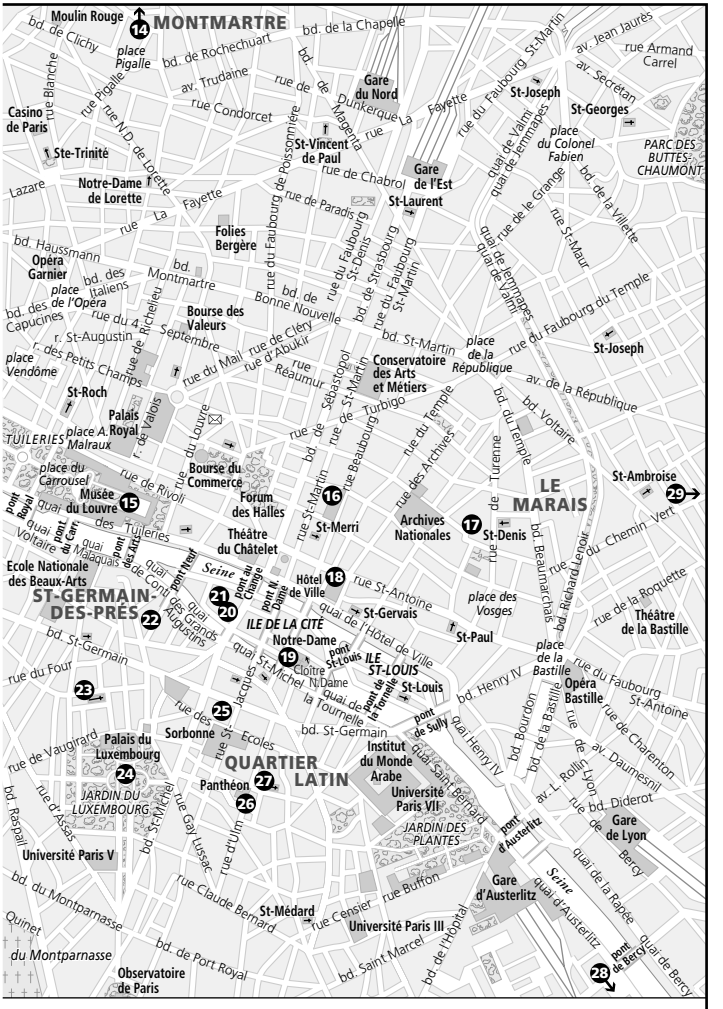
Place Charles-de-Gaulle–Etoile, 8e. ✆ **01-55-37-73-77.** www.monum.fr. Admission 8€ ($12) adults, free for children 18 and younger. Apr–Sept daily 10am–11pm; Oct–Mar daily 10am–10:30pm. Métro: Charles-de-Gaulle–Etoile. Bus: 22, 30, 31, 52, 73, or 92.

Basilique du Sacré-Coeur ★★ Sacré-Coeur is one of Paris's most characteristic landmarks and has been the subject of much controversy. One Parisian called it "a lunatic's confectionery dream." An offended Zola declared it "the basilica of the ridiculous." Sacré-Coeur has had warm supporters as well, including poet Max Jacob and artist Maurice Utrillo. Utrillo never tired of drawing and painting it, and he and Jacob came here regularly to pray. Atop the *butte* (hill) in Montmartre, its multiple gleaming white domes and *campanile* (bell tower) loom over Paris like a 12th-century Byzantine church. But it's not that old. After France's 1870 defeat by the Prussians, the basilica was planned as a votive offering to cure France's misfortunes. Rich and poor alike contributed money to build it. Construction began in 1876, and though the church wasn't consecrated until 1919, perpetual prayers of adoration have been made here day and night since 1885. The interior is brilliantly decorated with mosaics: Look for the striking Christ on the ceiling and the mural of his Passion at the back of the altar. The stained-glass

Top Paris Attractions



Arc de Triomphe **2**
Bibliothèque Nationale de France **28**
Basilique de Sacré-Cœur **14**
Basilique St-Denis **14**
Cathédrale de Notre-Dame **19**
Centre Pompidou **16**
Cimetière du Père-Lachaise **29**
Conciergerie **21**
Hôtel de Ville **18**
Hôtel des Invalides (Napoléon's Tomb) **8**
Jardin des Tuileries **11**
Jardin du Luxembourg **24**
Jeu de Paume **13**
La Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine **4**
Le Musée du quai Branly **6**



Les Égouts (Sewers of Paris) **7**
Musée de l'Orangerie **12**
Musée d'Orsay **10**
Musée du Louvre **15**
Musée Jacquemart-André **1**
Musée Marmottan-Claude Monet **3**
Musée National du Moyen Age/ Thermes de Cluny **25**
Musée National Eugéne Delacroix **22**
Musée Picasso **17**
Musée Rodin **9**
Panthéon **26**
Sainte-Chapelle **20**
St-Etienne-du-Mont **27**
St-Sulpice **23**
Tour Eiffel **5**

windows were shattered during the struggle for Paris in 1944 but have been well replaced. The crypt contains what some of the devout believe is Christ's sacred heart—hence, the name of the church.

Insider's tip: Although the view from the Arc de Triomphe is the greatest panorama of Paris, we also want to endorse the view from the gallery around the inner dome of Sacré-Coeur. On a clear day, your eyes take in a sweep of Paris extending for 48km (30 miles) into the Ile de France. You can also walk around the inner dome, an attraction even better than the interior of Sacré-Coeur itself.

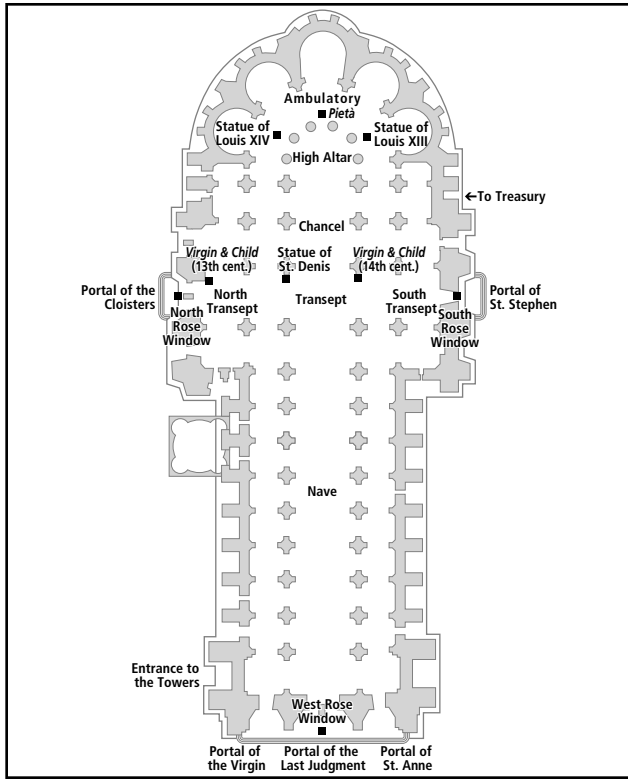
Place St-Pierre, 18e. ✆ **01-53-41-89-09.** www.sacre-coeur-montmartre.com. Free admission to basilica; joint ticket to dome and crypt 5€ ($7.30). Basilica daily 6am–11pm; dome and crypt daily 9am–6pm. Métro: Abbesses; take elevator to surface and follow signs to funicular.

Cathédrale de Notre-Dame ★★★ Notre-Dame is the heart of Paris and even of the country itself: Distances from the city to all parts of France are calculated from a spot at the far end of place du Parvis, in front of the cathedral, where a circular bronze plaque marks **Kilomètre Zéro.**

The cathedral's setting on the banks of the Seine has always been memorable. Founded in the 12th century by Maurice de Sully, bishop of Paris, Notre-Dame has grown over the years, changing as Paris has changed; often falling victim to whims of taste. Its flying buttresses (the external side supports, giving the massive interior a sense of weightlessness) were rebuilt in 1330. Though many disagree, we feel Notre-Dame is more interesting outside than in, and you'll want to walk all around it to fully appreciate this "vast symphony of stone." Better yet, cross over the pont au Double to the Left Bank and view it from the quay.

The histories of Paris and Notre-Dame are inseparable. Many prayed here before going off to fight in the Crusades. The revolutionaries who destroyed the Galerie des Rois and converted the building into a secular temple didn't spare "Our Lady of Paris." Later, Napoleon crowned himself emperor here; yanking the crown out of Pius VII's hands and placing it on his own head before crowning his Joséphine empress (see David's *Coronation of Napoléon* in the Louvre). But carelessness, vandalism, embellishments, and wars of religion had already demolished much of the previously existing structure.

The cathedral was once scheduled for demolition, but because of the popularity of Victor Hugo's *Hunchback of Notre-Dame* and the revival of interest in the Gothic period, a movement mushroomed to restore the cathedral to its original glory. The task was completed



under Viollet-le-Duc, an architectural genius. The houses of old Paris used to crowd in on Notre-Dame, but during his redesign of the city, Baron Haussmann ordered them torn down to show the cathedral to its best advantage from the parvis. This is the best vantage for seeing the three sculpted 13th-century portals (the Virgin, the Last Judgment, and St. Anne).

On the left, the **Portal of the Virgin** depicts the signs of the zodiac and the coronation of the Virgin, an association found in dozens of medieval churches. The restored central **Portal of the Last Judgment** depicts three levels: the first shows Vices and Virtues; the second, Christ and his Apostles; and above that, Christ in triumph after the Resurrection. The portal is a close illustration of the Gospel according to Matthew. Over it is the remarkable **west rose window** ★★, 9.5m (31 ft.) wide, forming a showcase for a statue of the Virgin and

Child. On the far right is the **Portal of St. Anne,** depicting scenes such as the Virgin enthroned with Child; it's Notre-Dame's best-preserved and most perfect piece of sculpture. Equally interesting (though often missed) is the **Portal of the Cloisters** (around on the left), with its dour-faced 13th-century Virgin, a survivor among the figures that originally adorned the facade. (Alas, the Child she's holding has been decapitated.) Finally, on the Seine side of Notre-Dame, the **Portal of St. Stephen** traces that saint's martyrdom.

If possible, see Notre-Dame at sunset. Inside of the three giant medallions warming the austere cathedral, the **north rose window** ★★ in the transept, from the mid–13th century, is best. The main body of the church is typically Gothic, with slender, graceful columns. In the **choir,** a stone-carved screen from the early–14th century depicts such biblical scenes as the Last Supper. Near the altar stands the 14th-century ***Virgin and Child*** ★, highly venerated among Paris's faithful. In the **treasury** are displayed vestments and gold objects, including crowns. Exhibited is a cross presented to Haile Selassie, former emperor of Ethiopia, and a reliquary given by Napoleon. Notre-Dame is especially proud of its relic of the True Cross and the Crown of Thorns.

To visit the **gargoyles** ★★ immortalized by Hugo, you have to scale steps leading to the twin **towers,** rising to a height of 68m (223 ft.). When there, you can inspect devils (some giving you the raspberry), hobgoblins, and birds of prey. Look carefully, and you may see hunchback Quasimodo with Esmeralda.

Approached through a garden behind Notre-Dame is the **Mémorial des Martyrs Français de la Déportation de 1945 (Deportation Memorial),** out on the tip of Ile de la Cité. Here, birds chirp and the Seine flows gently by, but the memories are far from pleasant. The memorial commemorates the French citizens who were deported to concentration camps during World War II. Carved into stone are these blood-red words (in French): "Forgive, but don't forget." The memorial is open Monday to Friday 8:30am to 9:45pm, and Saturday to Sunday 9am to 9:45pm. Admission is free.

6 place du Parvis Notre-Dame, 4e. ✆ **01-42-34-56-10.** www.notredamedeparis.fr. Admission free to cathedral. Towers 3.30€ ($4.80) adults, 2.50€ ($3.60) seniors and ages 13–25, free for children 12 and younger. Treasury 3€ ($4.40) adults, 2.20€ ($3.20) seniors and 1.60€ ($2.30) ages 13–25, free for children 12 and younger. Cathedral year-round daily 8am–6:45pm (Sat–Sun 7:15). Towers and crypt daily 10am–6pm (until 11pm Sat–Sun June–Aug). Museum Wed and Sat–Sun 2–5pm. Treasury Mon–Sat 9:30am–6pm; Sat 9:30am–6:30pm; Sun 1:30–6:30pm. Métro: Cité or St-Michel. RER: St-Michel.

Hôtel des Invalides/Napoleon's Tomb ★★★ In 1670, the Sun King decided to build this "hotel" to house soldiers with disabilities. It wasn't an entirely benevolent gesture, considering that the men had been injured, crippled, or blinded while fighting his battles. When the building was finally completed (Louis XIV had long been dead), a gilded dome by Jules Hardouin-Mansart crowned it, and its corridors stretched for miles. The best way to approach the Invalides is by crossing over the Right Bank via the early 1900s pont Alexander-III and entering the cobblestone forecourt, where a display of massive cannons makes a formidable welcome.

Before rushing on to Napoleon's Tomb, you may want to visit the world's greatest military museum, the **Musée de l'Armée.** In 1794, a French inspector started collecting weapons, uniforms, and equipment, and with the accumulation of war material over time, the museum has become a documentary of man's self-destruction. Viking swords, Burgundian battle axes, 14th-century blunderbusses, Balkan *khandjars,* American Browning machine guns, war pitchforks, salamander-engraved Renaissance serpentines, a 1528 Griffon, musketoons, grenadiers . . . if it can kill, it's enshrined here. As a sardonic touch, there's even the wooden leg of General Daumesnil, the governor of Vincennes who lost his leg in the battle of Wagram. Oblivious to the irony of committing a crime against a place that documents man's evil nature, the Nazis looted the museum in 1940.

Among the outstanding acquisitions are suits of armor worn by the kings and dignitaries of France, including Louis XIV. The best are in the new Arsenal. The most famous one, the "armor suit of the lion," was made for François I. Henri II ordered his suit engraved with the monogram of his mistress, Diane de Poitiers, and (perhaps reluctantly) that of his wife, Catherine de Médicis. Particularly fine are the showcases of swords and the World War I mementos, including those of American and Canadian soldiers—seek out the Armistice Bugle, which sounded the cease-fire on November 7, 1918, before the general cease-fire on November 11. The west wing's Salle Orientale has arms of the Eastern world, including Asia and the Mideast Muslim countries, from the 16th century to the 19th century. Turkish armor (look for Bajazet's helmet) and weaponry, and Chinese and Japanese armor and swords are on display.

Then there's that little Corsican who became France's greatest soldier. Here you can see the death mask Antommarchi made of him, as well as an oil by Delaroche painted at the time of Napoleon's first banishment (April 1814) and depicting him as he probably looked,

paunch and all. The First Empire exhibit displays Napoleon's field bed with his tent; in the room devoted to the Restoration, the 100 Days, and Waterloo, you can see his bedroom as it was at the time of his death on St. Helena. The Turenne Salon contains other souvenirs, such as the hat Napoleon wore at Eylau; the sword from his Austerlitz victory; and his "Flag of Farewell," which he kissed before departing for Elba.

You can gain access to the **Musée des Plans-Reliefs** through the west wing. This collection shows French towns and monuments done in scale models (the model of Strasbourg fills an entire room), as well as models of military fortifications since the days of the great Vauban.

A walk across the Cour d'Honneur (Court of Honor) delivers you to the **Eglise du Dôme,** designed by Hardouin-Mansart for Louis XIV. The architect began work on the church in 1677, though he died before its completion. The dome is the second-tallest monument in Paris (the Tour Eiffel is the tallest, of course). The hearse used at the emperor's funeral on May 9, 1821, is in the Napoleon Chapel.

To accommodate **Napoleon's Tomb** ★★★, the architect Visconti had to redesign the church's high altar in 1842. First buried on St. Helena, Napoleon's remains were exhumed and brought to Paris in 1840 on the orders of Louis-Philippe, who demanded that the English return the emperor to French soil. The remains were locked inside six coffins in this tomb made of red Finnish porphyry, with a green granite base. Surrounding it are a dozen Amazon-like figures representing Napoleon's victories. Almost lampooning the smallness of the man, everything is done on a gargantuan scale. In his coronation robes, the statue of Napoleon stands 2.5m (8¼ ft.) high. The grave of the "King of Rome," his son by second wife Marie-Louise, lies at his feet. Surrounding Napoleon's Tomb are those of his brother, Joseph Bonaparte; the great Vauban, who built many of France's fortifications; World War I Allied commander Foch; and the vicomte de Turenne, the republic's first grenadier (actually, only his heart is entombed here).

Place des Invalides, 7e. ✆ **01-44-42-37-72.** www.invalides.org. Admission to Musée de l'Armée, Napoléon's Tomb, and Musée des Plans-Reliefs 8€ ($12) adults, 6€ ($8.70) students, free for children 17 and younger. Oct–Mar daily 10am–5pm; Apr–May daily 10am–6pm; June–Aug daily 10am–7pm; Sept daily 10am–6pm. Closed Jan 1, May 1, Nov 1, and Dec 25. Métro: Latour-Maubourg, Varenne, Invalides, or St-Francois-Xavier.

Musée d'Orsay ★★★ Architects created one of the world's great museums from an old rail station, the neoclassical Gare d'Orsay, across the Seine from the Louvre and the Tuileries. Don't skip the Louvre, of course, but come here even if you have to miss all the other art museums in town. The Orsay boasts an astounding collection devoted to the watershed years 1848 to 1914, with a treasure trove by the big names plus all the lesser-known groups (the symbolists, pointillists, nabis, realists, and late romantics). The 80 galleries also include Belle Epoque furniture, photographs, objets d'art, and architectural models. A cinema shows classic films.

A monument to the Industrial Revolution, the Orsay is covered by an arching glass roof allowing in floods of light. It displays works ranging from the creations of academic and historic painters such as Ingres to romanticists such as Delacroix, to neorealists including Courbet and Daumier. The Impressionists and post-Impressionists, including Manet, Monet, Cézanne, van Gogh, and Renoir, share space with the fauves, Matisse, the cubists, and the expressionists in a setting once used by Orson Welles to film a nightmarish scene in *The Trial,* based on Kafka's unfinished novel. You'll find Millet's sunny wheat fields, Barbizon landscapes, Corot's mists, and Tahitian Gauguins all in the same hall.

But it's the Impressionists who draw the crowds. When the nose-in-the-air Louvre chose not to display their works, a great rival was born. Led by Manet, Renoir, and Monet, the Impressionists shunned ecclesiastical and mythological set pieces for a light-bathed Seine, faint figures strolling in the Tuileries, pale-faced women in hazy bars, and even vulgar rail stations such as the Gare St-Lazare. And the Impressionists were the first to paint that most characteristic feature of Parisian life: the sidewalk cafe, especially in the artists' quarter of Montmartre.

The most famous painting from this era is Manet's 1863 ***Déjeuner sur l'herbe (Picnic on the Grass),*** whose forest setting with a nude woman and two fully clothed men sent shock waves through respectable society when it was first exhibited. Two years later, Manet's ***Olympia*** created another scandal by depicting a woman lounging on her bed and wearing nothing but a flower in her hair and high-heeled shoes; she's attended by an African maid in the background. Zola called Manet "a man among eunuchs."

One of Renoir's most joyous paintings is here: the ***Moulin de la Galette*** (1876). Degas is represented by his paintings of racehorses and dancers; his 1876 cafe scene, ***Absinthe,*** remains one of his most

reproduced works. Paris-born Monet was fascinated by the effect of changing light on Rouen Cathédrale and brought its stone bubbles to life in a series of five paintings; our favorite is ***Rouen Cathédrale: Full Sunlight.*** Another celebrated work is by an American, Whistler's ***Arrangement in Grey and Black: Portrait of the Painter's Mother,*** better known as ***Whistler's Mother.*** It's said that this painting heralded modern art, though many critics denounced it at the time because of its funereal overtones. Whistler was content to claim he'd made "Mummy just as nice as possible."

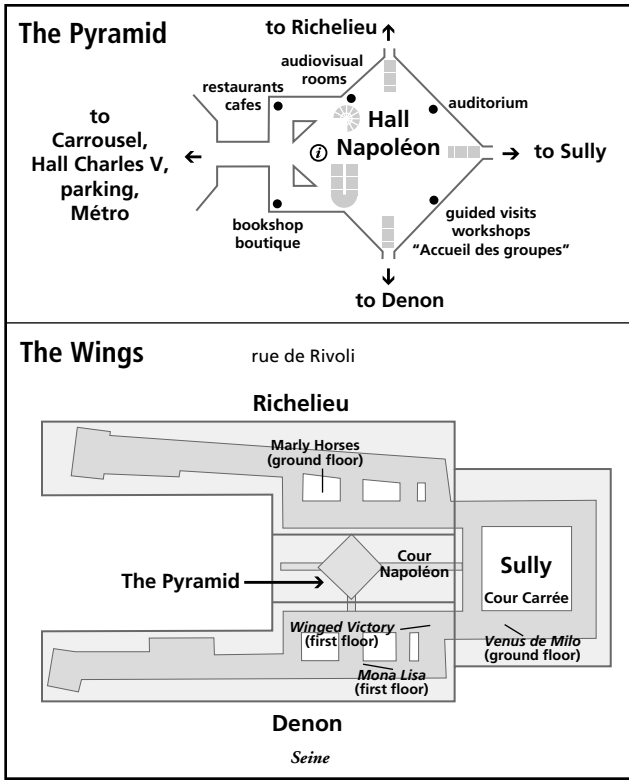
1 rue de Bellechasse or 62 rue de Lille, 7e. ✆ **01-40-49-48-14.** www.musee-orsay.fr. Admission 7.50€ ($11) adults, 5.50€ ($8) ages 18–24, free ages 17 and younger. Tues–Wed and Fri–Sun 9:30am–6pm; Thurs 9:30am–9:45pm. Closed Jan 1, May 1, and Dec 25. Métro: Solférino. RER: Musée d'Orsay.

Musée du Louvre ★★★ The Louvre is the world's largest palace and museum. As a palace, it leaves us cold except for the **Cour Carrée.** As a museum, it's one of the greatest art collections ever. To enter, pass through I. M. Pei's controversial 21m (69-ft.) **glass pyramid** ★—a startling though effective contrast of the ultramodern against the palace's classical lines. Commissioned by the late president François Mitterrand and completed in 1989, it allows sunlight to shine on an underground reception area with a complex of shops and restaurants. Ticket machines relieve the long lines of yesteryear.

People on one of those "Paris-in-a-day" tours try to break track records to get a glimpse of the Louvre's two most famous ladies: the beguiling ***Mona Lisa*** and the armless ***Venus de Milo*** ★★★. The herd then dashes on a 5-minute stampede in pursuit of ***Winged Victory*** ★★★, the headless statue discovered at Samothrace and dating from about 200 B.C. In defiance of the assembly-line theory of art, we head instead for David's ***Coronation of Napoleon,*** showing Napoleon poised with the crown aloft as Joséphine kneels before him, just across from his ***Portrait of Madame Récamier*** ★, depicting Napoleon's opponent at age 23; she reclines on her sofa agelessly in the style of classical antiquity.

Then a big question looms: Which of the rest of the 30,000 works on display would you like to see?

Between the Seine and rue de Rivoli, the Palais du Louvre suffers from an embarrassment of riches, stretching for almost a kilometer (half a mile). In the days of Charles V, it was a fortress, but François I, a patron of Leonardo da Vinci, had it torn down and rebuilt as a royal residence. Less than a month after Marie Antoinette's head and body parted company, the Revolutionary Committee decided the king's collection of paintings and sculpture should be opened to the



public. At the lowest point in its history, in the 18th century, the Louvre was home for anybody who wanted to set up housekeeping. Laundry hung in the windows, corners were pigpens, and families built fires to cook their meals in winter. Napoleon ended all that, chasing out the squatters and restoring the palace. In fact, he chose the Louvre as the site of his wedding to Marie-Louise.

So where did all these paintings come from? The kings of France, notably François I and Louis XIV, acquired many of them, and others were willed to or purchased by the state. Many contributed by Napoleon were taken from reluctant donors: The church was one especially heavy and unwilling giver. Much of Napoleon's plunder had to be returned, though France hasn't yet seen its way clear to giving back all the booty.

Tips Leaping over the Louvre Line

If you don't want to wait in line at the entrance to the Louvre pyramid, or use the automatic ticket machines, you can order tickets over the phone (✆ **08-92-68-46-94**) with a credit card. You can also order advance tickets and take a virtual tour at www.louvre.fr. Tickets can be mailed to you in the U.S., or you can pick them up at any Paris branch of the FNAC electronics chain.

The collections are divided into seven departments: Egyptian Antiquities; Oriental Antiquities; Greek, Etruscan, and Roman Antiquities; Sculpture; Painting; Decorative Arts; and Graphic Arts. A number of galleries, devoted to Italian paintings, Roman glass and bronzes, Oriental antiquities, and Egyptian antiquities, were opened in 1997 and 1998. If you don't have to do Paris in a day, you might want to visit several times, concentrating on different collections or schools of painting. Those with little time should take a guided tour.

Acquired by François I to hang above his bathtub, Leonardo's ***La Gioconda (Mona Lisa)*** ★★★ has been the source of legend for centuries. Note the guard and bulletproof glass: The world's most famous painting was stolen in 1911 and found in Florence in 1913. At first, both the poet Guillaume Apollinaire and Picasso were suspected, but it was discovered in the possession of a former Louvre employee, who'd apparently carried it out under his overcoat. Two centuries after its arrival at the Louvre, the *Mona Lisa* in 2003 was assigned a new gallery of her own. Less well known (but to us even more enchanting) are Leonardo's ***Virgin and Child with St. Anne*** ★ and the ***Virgin of the Rocks.***

After paying your respects to the "smiling one," allow time to see some French works stretching from the Richelieu wing through the entire **Sully wing** and even overflowing into the **Denon wing.** It's all here: Watteau's ***Gilles*** with the mysterious boy in a clown suit staring at you; Fragonard's and Boucher's rococo renderings of the aristocracy; and the greatest masterpieces of David, including his stellar 1785 ***The Oath of the Horatii*** and the vast and vivid ***Coronation of Napoleon.*** Only Florence's Uffizi rivals the Denon wing for its Italian Renaissance collection—everything from Raphael's ***Portrait of Balthazar Castiglione*** to Titian's ***Man with a Glove.*** Veronese's gigantic ***Wedding Feast at Cana*** ★, a romp of Venetian high society in the 1500s, occupies an entire wall (that's Paolo himself playing the cello).

Of the Greek and Roman antiquities, the most notable collections, aside from the *Venus de Milo* and *Winged Victory,* are fragments of a **Parthenon frieze** (in the Denon wing). In Renaissance sculpture, you'll see Michelangelo's ***Esclaves (Slaves),*** originally intended for the tomb of Julius II but sold into other bondage. The Denon wing houses masterpieces such as Ingres's ***The Turkish Bath,*** the **Botticelli frescoes** from the Villa Lemmi, Raphael's ***La Belle Jardinière,*** and Titian's ***Open Air Concert.*** The Sully wing is also filled with old masters, such as Boucher's ***Diana Resting After Her Bath*** and Fragonard's ***Bathers.***

The **Richelieu wing** ★★★ reopened in 1993 after lying empty for years. Now, with an additional 69,000 sq. m (743,000 sq. ft.) of exhibition space, it houses northern European and French paintings, along with decorative arts, sculpture, Oriental antiquities (a rich collection of Islamic art), and the Napoleon III salons. One of its galleries displays 21 works that Rubens painted in a space of only 2 years for Marie de Médicis's Palais de Luxembourg. The masterpieces here include Dürer's ***Self-Portrait,*** Van Dyck's ***Portrait of Charles I of England,*** and Holbein the Younger's ***Portrait of Erasmus of Rotterdam.***

When you tire of strolling the galleries, you may like a pick-me-up at the Richelieu Wing's **Café Richelieu** (✆ **01-49-27-99-01**) or at **Café Marly,** 93 rue de Rivoli, 1er (✆ **01-49-26-06-60**). Boasting Napoleon III opulence, the Marly is a perfect oasis. Try a cafe crème, a club sandwich, a pastry, or something from the bistro menu.

34–36 quai du Louvre, 1er. Main entrance in the glass pyramid, Cour Napoléon. ✆ **01-40-20-53-17,** 01-40-20-50-50 for operator, or 08-92-68-46-94 for advance credit card sales. www.louvre.fr. Admission 9€ ($13), children 17 and younger free, free to all 1st Sun of every month. Sat–Mon and Thurs 9am–6pm; Wed and Fri 9am–10pm. 1½-hr. English-language tours (Mon and Wed–Sun) 6€ ($8.70), free for children 12 and younger with museum ticket. Métro: Palais-Royal–Musée du Louvre.

Sainte-Chapelle ★★★ Countless writers have called this tiny chapel a jewel box, yet that hardly suffices, nor can it be called "a light show." Go when the sun is shining, and you'll need no one else's words to describe the remarkable effects of natural light on Sainte-Chapelle. You approach the church through the Cour de la Sainte-Chapelle of the Palais de Justice. If it weren't for the chapel's 74m (243 ft.) spire, the law courts here would almost swallow it up.

Begun in 1246, the bi-level chapel was built to house relics of the True Cross, including the Crown of Thorns acquired by St. Louis (the Crusader king, Louis IX) from the emperor of Constantinople. (In those days, cathedrals throughout Europe were busy acquiring

relics for their treasuries, regardless of their authenticity. It was a seller's, perhaps a sucker's, market.) Louis IX is said to have paid heavily for his relics, raising the money through unscrupulous means. He died of the plague on a crusade and was canonized in 1297.

You enter through the ***chapelle basse*** **(lower chapel),** used by the palace servants; it's supported by flying buttresses and ornamented with fleur-de-lis designs. The king and his courtiers used the ***chapelle haute*** **(upper chapel),** one of the greatest achievements of Gothic art; you reach it by ascending a narrow spiral staircase. On a bright day, the 15 stained-glass windows seem to glow with Chartres blue and with reds that have inspired the saying "wine the color of Sainte-Chapelle's windows." The walls consist almost entirely of the glass, 612 sq. m (6,588 sq. ft.) of it, which had to be removed for safekeeping during the Revolution and again during both world wars. In the windows' Old and New Testament designs are embodied the hopes and dreams (and the pretensions) of the kings who ordered their construction. The 1,134 scenes depict the Christian story from the Garden of Eden through the Apocalypse; you read them from bottom to top and from left to right. The great rose window depicts the Apocalypse.

Sainte-Chapelle stages **concerts** from March to November, daily at 7 and 8:30pm; tickets cost 19€ to 25€ ($28–$36). Call ✆ **01-44-07-12-38** from 11am to 6pm daily for details.

Palais de Justice, 4 bd. du Palais, 4e. ✆ **01-53-40-60-80.** www.monum.fr. 7.50€ ($11) adults, 4.80€ ($7) ages 18–25, free 17 and younger. Mar–Oct daily 9:30am–6pm; Nov–Feb daily 9am–5pm. Métro: Cité, St-Michel, or Châtelet–Les Halles. RER: St-Michel.

Tour Eiffel ★★★ This is without doubt one of the most recognizable structures in the world. Weighing 7,000 tons, but exerting about the same pressure on the ground as an average-size person sitting in a chair, the wrought-iron tower wasn't meant to be permanent. Gustave-Alexandre Eiffel, the French engineer whose fame rested mainly on his iron bridges, built it for the 1889 Universal Exhibition. (Eiffel also designed the framework for the Statue of Liberty.) Praised by some and denounced by others (some called it a "giraffe," the "world's greatest lamppost," or the "iron monster"), the tower created as much controversy in the 1880s as I. M. Pei's glass pyramid at the Louvre did in the 1980s. What saved it from demolition was the advent of radio—as the tallest structure in Europe, it made a perfect spot to place a radio antenna (now a TV antenna).

Value Tour Eiffel Bargain

The least expensive way to see the Tour Eiffel (www.tour-eiffel.fr) is to walk up the first two floors at a cost of 4€ ($5.80) adults, or 3.10€ ($4.50) ages 25 and younger. That way, you also avoid the long lines waiting for the elevator—although the views are less spectacular from this platform. If you dine at the tower's own **Altitude 95** (✆ **01-45-55-20-04**), an Eiffel restaurant on the first floor, management allows patrons to cut to the head of the line.

The tower, including its TV antenna, is 317m (1,040 ft.) high. On a clear day you can see it from 65km (40 miles) away. An open-framework construction, the tower unlocked the almost unlimited possibilities of steel construction, paving the way for skyscrapers. Skeptics said it couldn't be built, and Eiffel actually wanted to make it soar higher. For years it remained the tallest man-made structure on earth, until skyscrapers such as the Empire State Building surpassed it.

We could fill an entire page with tower statistics. (Its plans spanned 5,400 sq. m/58,000 sq. ft. of paper, and it contains 2.5 million rivets.) But forget the numbers. Just stand beneath the tower and look straight up. It's like a rocket of steel lacework shooting into the sky.

In 2004 it became possible to ice-skate inside the Eiffel Tower, doing figure eights while taking in views of the rooftops of Paris. Skating takes place on an observation deck 57m (188 ft.) above ground. The rectangular rink is a bit larger than an average tennis court, holding 80 skaters at once—half the capacity of New York City's Rockefeller Center rink. Rink admission and skate rental are free, after you pay the initial entry fee below.

To get to **Le Jules Verne** (✆ **08-25-56-66-62**), the second-platform restaurant, take the private south foundation elevator. You can enjoy an aperitif in the piano bar and then take a seat at one of the dining room's tables, all of which provide an inspiring view. The menu changes seasonally, offering fish and meat dishes that range from filet of turbot with seaweed and buttered sea urchins to veal chops with truffled vegetables. Reservations are recommended.

Champ de Mars, 7e. ✆ **01-44-11-23-23.** www.tour-eiffel.fr. Admission to 1st landing 4.50€ ($6.60), 2nd landing 7.80€ ($11), 3rd landing 12€ ($17). Stairs to 2nd floor 4€ ($5.80), 3.10€ ($4.50) for ages 25 and younger. Sept–May daily 9:30am–11:45pm; June–Aug daily 9am–12:45am. Sept–June stairs open only to 6:30pm. Métro: Trocadéro, Ecole Militaire, or Bir Hakeim. RER: Champ de Mars–Tour Eiffel.

2 The Major Museums

Turn to "The Top Attractions," earlier, for a comprehensive look at the **Musée du Louvre** and the **Musée d'Orsay.**

Centre Pompidou ★★★ Reopened in January 2000 in what was called in the 1970s "the most avant-garde building in the world," the restored Centre Pompidou is packing in the art-loving crowds again. The dream of former president Georges Pompidou, this center for 20th- and 21st-century art, designed by Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano, opened in 1977 and quickly became the focus of controversy. Its bold exoskeletal architecture and the brightly painted pipes and ducts crisscrossing its transparent facade (green for water, red for heat, blue for air, and yellow for electricity) were jarring in the old Beaubourg neighborhood. Perhaps the detractors were right all along—within 20 years, the building began to deteriorate so badly that a major restoration was necessary. The renovation added 450 sq. m (4,844 sq. ft.) of exhibit space and a rooftop restaurant, a cafe, and a boutique; in addition, a series of auditoriums were created for film screenings and dance, theater, and musical performances. Access for visitors with disabilities has also been improved.

The Centre Pompidou encompasses five attractions:

Musée National d'Art Moderne (National Museum of Modern Art) ★★★ has a large collection of 20th- and 21st-century art. With some 40,000 works, this is the big attraction, though only about 850 works can be displayed at one time. If you want to view some real charmers, seek out Calder's 1926 ***Josephine Baker,*** one of his earlier versions of the mobile, an art form he invented. You'll also find two examples of Duchamps's series of dada-style sculptures he invented in 1936: ***Boîte en Valise*** (1941) and ***Boîte en Valise*** (1968). And every time we visit, we have to see Dalí's ***Hallucination partielle: Six images de Lénine sur un piano*** (1931), with Lenin dancing on a piano.

In the **Bibliothèque Information Publique (Public Information Library),** people have free access to a million French and foreign books, periodicals, films, records, slides, and microfilms in nearly every area of knowledge. The **Centre de Création Industriel (Center for Industrial Design)** emphasizes the contributions made in the fields of architecture, visual communications, publishing, and community planning; and the **Institut de Recherche et de Coordination Acoustique-Musique (Institute for Research and Coordination of Acoustics/Music)** brings together musicians and

Value The Museum Discount Card

If you're a culture buff, consider buying a **Paris Museum Pass,** which admits you to some 70 museums in Paris and its environs. You do the math—if you plan to visit three or four museums, the card is usually worth the investment. A pass good for 2 days costs 30€ ($44); for 4 consecutive days, 45€ ($65); and for 6 consecutive days, 60€ ($87). Cards are available at all major museums. For more information, contact **Association InterMusees,** 4 rue Brantôme, 3e (✆ **01-44-61-96-60;** www.parismuseumpass.fr; Métro: Rambuteau).

composers interested in furthering the cause of contemporary and traditional music. Finally, you can visit a re-creation of the Jazz Age studio of Romanian sculptor Brancusi, the **Atelier Brancusi** ★, a minimuseum slightly separated from the rest of the action. Open Wednesday to Monday 2 to 6pm.

The museum's **forecourt** is a free "entertainment center" featuring mimes, fire-eaters, circus performers, and sometimes musicians. Don't miss the nearby **Stravinsky fountain,** containing mobile sculptures by Tinguely and Saint Phalle.

Place Georges-Pompidou, 4e. ✆ **01-44-78-12-33.** www.centrepompidou.fr. Admission 10€ ($15) adults, 8€ ($12) students, free for children 17 and younger. Wed–Mon 11am–9pm. Métro: Rambuteau, Hôtel de Ville, or Châtelet–Les Halles.

Jeu de Paume After knowing many roles, this museum has become a center for photography and video, exploring "the world of images, their uses, and the issues they raise." Its exhibitions not only display photography but mechanical or electronic images. It is one of the finest museums of its type in the world, and it presents ever-changing exhibitions, many of them daringly avant-garde.

For years the National Gallery in the Jeu de Paume, in the northeast corner of the Tuileries gardens, was one of the treasures of Paris, displaying some of the finest words of the impressionists. In 1986 that collection was hauled off to the Musée d'Orsay, much to the regret of many. Following a $14-million face-lift, this Second Empire building has been transformed into state-of-the-art galleries.

Originally, in this part of the gardens, Napoleon III built a ball court on which *jeu de paume,* an antecedent of tennis, was played—hence the museum's name. The most infamous period in the National Gallery's history came during the Nazi occupation, when it

served as an "evaluation center" for works of modern art. Paintings from all over France were shipped to the Jeu de Paume; art condemned by the Nazis as "degenerate" was burned.

1 Place de la Concorde, 8e. ✆ **01-47-03-12-50.** www.jeudepaume.org. Admission 6€ ($8.70) adults, 3€ ($4.40) students and children. Tues noon–9pm; Wed–Fri noon–7pm; Sat–Sun 10am–7pm. Métro: Concorde.

La Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine ★ *Kids* After a decade-long makeover, the City of Architecture and Heritage was opened by President Nicolas Sarkozy of France in 2007. With its trio of galleries and vast space, the museum is the largest architectural museum in the world. It lies in the east wing of the Palais de Chaillot on a hill overlooking a curve of the Seine, with panoramic views of Paris in all directions. The Eiffel Tower looms just across the river.

Exhibits are devoted to 12 centuries of French architecture, the most stunning of which is the reproduction of the stained-glass window ★★ in the Gothic cathedral at Chartres. Other exhibits include a walk-in replica of Le Corbusier's mid-20th century Cité Radieuse in Marseille.

In all there are 350 plaster cast reproductions of some of the greatest achievements in French architecture, going back to the Middle Ages. One gallery reproduces France's remarkable paintings and frescoes from the 12th to 16th centuries. A third gallery is devoted to modern architecture right up to a turn-of-the-millennium cultural center in New Caledonia in the South Pacific. Children can build their own architectural masterpieces with Legos.

1 place du Trocadéro, 16e. ✆ **01-58-51-52-00.** www.citechaillot.fr. Admission 8€ ($12) adults, 5€ ($7.30) students, free ages 18 and younger. Wed, Fri–Mon 11am–7pm; Thurs 11am–9pm. Métro: Trocadero.

Le Musée du quai Branly ★★★ The architect, Jean Nouvel, said he wanted to create something "unique, poetic, and disturbing." And so he did with the opening of this $265-million museum, which took a decade to launch. There was even scandal: the terracotta figures from Nigeria turned out to be smuggled. At long last, under one roof nearly 300,000 tribal artifacts from Africa, Asia, Oceania, and the Americas have been assembled. Galleries stand on sculpted pillars that evoke totem poles. Set in a lush, rambling garden on the Left Bank in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower, this is the greatest museum to open in Paris since Pompidou.

Housed in four spectacular buildings with a garden walled off from the quai Branly are the art, sculpture, and cultural materials of a vast range of non-Western civilizations, separated into different

sections that represent the traditional cultures of Africa, East and Southeast Asia, Oceania, Australia, the Americas, and New Zealand. The pieces here come from the now-defunct Musée des Arts Africains et Oceaniens, from the Louvre, and from the Musée de l'Homme. Temporary exhibits are shown off in boxes all along the 183m-long (600 ft.) exhibition hall.

Allow 2 hours for a full visit; also take a stroll in the carefully manicured garden, or have a café au lait in the small cafeteria across from the main building. There are numerous entrances to the museum grounds from the area near the Eiffel Tower; the main entrance is on quai Branly.

27–37 quai Branly and 206–208 rue de Université, 7e. ✆ **01-56-61-70-00.** www.quaibranly.fr. Admission 8.50€ ($12) adults, 6€ ($8.70) senior and students 18–26, free for children 17 and younger. Tues–Wed and Sun 10am–7pm; Thurs–Sat 10am–9pm. Métro: Alma-Marceau. RER: Pont d'Alma.

Musée de l'Orangerie ★ In the Tuileries stands this gem among galleries. It has an outstanding collection of art and one celebrated painting on display: Claude Monet's exquisite *Nymphéas* (1915–27), in which water lilies float amorphously on the canvas. The water lilies are displayed as the artist intended them to be—lit by sunlight in large oval galleries that evoke the shape of the garden ponds at his former Giverny estate.

Creating his effects with hundreds of minute strokes of his brush (one irate 19th-century critic called them "tongue lickings"), Monet achieved unity and harmony, as he did in his Rouen Cathedral series and his haystacks. See his lilies and evoke for yourself the mood and melancholy as he experienced them so many years ago. Monet continued to paint his water landscapes right up until his death in 1926, although he was greatly hampered by failing eyesight.

The renovated building also houses the art collections of two men, John Walter and Paul Guillaume, who are not connected to each other, except that they were both married at different times to the same woman. Their collection includes more than 24 Renoirs, including *Young Girl at a Piano.* Cézanne is represented by 14 works, notably *The Red Rock,* and Matisse by 11 paintings. The highlight of Rousseau's nine works displayed here is *The Wedding,* and the dozen paintings by Picasso reach the pinnacle of their brilliance in *The Female Bathers.* Other outstanding paintings are by Utrillo (10 works in all), Soutine (22), and Derain (28).

Jardin des Tuileries, 1er. ✆ **01-44-77-80-07.** www.musee-orangerie.fr. Admission 6.50€ ($9.50) adults, 4.50€ ($6.60) students 25 and younger. Free 1st Sun of every month. Wed–Thurs, Sat–Mon 12:30–7pm; Fri 12:30–9pm. Métro: Concorde.

Musée Jacquemart-André ★★ This is the finest museum of its type in Paris, the treasure trove of a couple devoted to 18th-century French paintings and furnishings, 17th-century Dutch and Flemish paintings, and Italian Renaissance works. Edouard André, the last scion of a family that made a fortune in banking and industry in the 19th century, spent most of his life as an army officer stationed abroad; he eventually returned to marry a well-known portraitist of government figures and the aristocracy, Nélie Jacquemart, and they went on to compile a collection of rare decorative art and paintings in this 1850s town house.

In 1912, Mme Jacquemart willed the house and its contents to the Institut de France, which paid for an extensive renovation and enlargement. The salons drip with gilt and are the ultimate in *fin-de-siècle* style. Works by Bellini, Carpaccio, Uccelo, van Dyck, Rembrandt *(The Pilgrim of Emmaus),* Tiepolo, Rubens, Watteau, Boucher, Fragonard, and Mantegna are complemented by Houdon busts, Savonnerie carpets, Gobelin tapestries, Della Robbia terra cottas, and an awesome collection of antiques. The 18th-century Tiepolo frescoes of spectators on balconies viewing Henri III's 1574 arrival in Venice are outstanding.

Take a break with a cup of tea in Mme Jacquemart's high-ceilinged dining room, adorned with 18th-century tapestries. Salads, tarts, *tourtes* (pastries filled with meat or fruit), and Viennese pastries are served during museum hours.

158 bd. Haussmann, 8e. ✆ **01-45-62-11-59.** www.musee-jacquemart-andre.com. Admission 9.50€ ($14) adults, 7€ ($10) children 7–17, free for children 6 and younger. Daily 10am–6pm. Métro: Miromesnil or St-Philippe-du-Roule.

Musée Marmottan–Claude Monet ★★ In the past, an art historian or two would sometimes venture here to the edge of the Bois de Boulogne to see what Paul Marmottan had donated to the Académie des Beaux-Arts. Hardly anyone else did until 1966, when Claude Monet's son Michel died in a car crash, leaving a then–$10 million bequest of his father's art to the little museum. The Académie suddenly found itself with 130-plus paintings, watercolors, pastels, and drawings. Monet lovers could now trace the evolution of the great man's work in a single museum. The collection includes more than 30 paintings of Monet's house at Giverny and many of water lilies, his everlasting fancy, plus ***Willow*** (1918), ***House of Parliament*** (1905), and a **Renoir portrait** of a 32-year-old Monet. The museum had always owned Monet's ***Impression: Sunrise*** (1872), from which the Impressionist movement got its name. Paul Marmottan's original collection includes fig-leafed

nudes, First Empire antiques, assorted objets d'art, Renaissance tapestries, bucolic paintings, and crystal chandeliers. You can also see countless miniatures donated by Daniel Waldenstein. The works of other Impressionists are also included, among them Degas, Manet, Pissarro, Renoir, Auguste Rodin, and Alfred Sisley.

2 rue Louis-Boilly, 16e. ✆ **01-44-96-50-33.** www.marmottan.com. Admission 8€ ($12) adults, 4.50€ ($6.60) ages 8–24, free for children 7 and younger. Tues–Sun 10am–6pm. Métro: La Muette. RER: Bouilainvilliers, line C.

Musée National du Moyen Age/Thermes de Cluny (Musée de Cluny) ★★ Along with the Hôtel de Sens in the Marais, the Hôtel de Cluny is all that remains of domestic medieval architecture in Paris. Enter through the cobblestoned **Cour d'Honneur (Court of Honor),** where you can admire the flamboyant Gothic building with its vines, turreted walls, gargoyles, and dormers with seashell motifs. First, the Cluny was the mansion of a rich 15th-century abbot, built on top of/next to the ruins of a Roman bath (see below). By 1515, it was the residence of Mary Tudor, widow of Louis XII and daughter of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. Seized during the Revolution, the Cluny was rented in 1833 to Alexandre du Sommerard, who adorned it with medieval artworks. After his death in 1842, the government bought the building and the collection.

This collection of medieval arts and crafts is superb. Most people come to see ***The Lady and the Unicorn Tapestries*** ★★★, the most acclaimed tapestries of their kind. All the romance of the age of chivalry—a beautiful princess and her handmaiden, beasts of prey, and house pets—lives on in these remarkable yet mysterious tapestries discovered only a century ago in Limousin's Château de Boussac. Five seem to deal with the senses (one, for example, depicts a unicorn looking into a mirror held by a dour-faced maiden). The sixth shows a woman under an elaborate tent with jewels, her pet dog resting on an embroidered cushion beside her, with the lovable unicorn and his friendly companion, a lion, holding back the flaps. The background forms a rich carpet of spring flowers, fruit-laden trees, birds, rabbits, donkeys, dogs, goats, lambs, and monkeys.

The other exhibits range widely: Flemish retables; a 14th-century Sienese John the Baptist and other sculptures; statues from Sainte-Chapelle (1243–48); 12th- and 13th-century crosses, chalices, manuscripts, carvings, vestments, leatherwork, jewelry, and coins; a 13th-century Adam; and recently discovered heads and fragments of statues from Notre-Dame de Paris. In the fan-vaulted medieval chapel hang tapestries depicting scenes from the life of St. Stephen.

Downstairs are the ruins of the **Roman baths,** from around A.D. 200. The best-preserved section is seen in room X, the frigidarium (where one bathed in cold water). Once it measured 21×11m (69×36 ft.), rising to a height of 15m (49 ft.), with stone walls nearly 1.5m (5 ft.) thick. The ribbed vaulting here rests on consoles evoking ships' prows. Credit for this unusual motif goes to the builders of the baths, Paris's boatmen. During Tiberius's reign, a column to Jupiter was found beneath Notre-Dame's chancel and is now on view in the court; called the "Column of the Boatmen," it's believed to be the oldest sculpture created in Paris.

6 place Paul Painlevé, 5e. ✆ **01-53-73-78-00.** www.musee-moyenage.fr. Admission 7.50€ ($11) adults, 5.50€ ($8) children 7–17, free for children 6 and younger. Daily 10am–6pm. Métro: Miromesnil or St-Philippe-du-Roule.

Musée National Eugène Delacroix This museum is for Delacroix groupies, among whom we include ourselves. If you want to see where he lived, worked, and died, this is worth at least an hour. Delacroix (1798–1863) is something of an enigma to art historians. Even his parentage is a mystery. Many believe Talleyrand was his father. One biographer saw him "as an isolated and atypical individualist—one who respected traditional values, yet emerged as the embodiment of Romantic revolt." Baudelaire called him "a volcanic crater artistically concealed beneath bouquets of flowers." The museum is on one of the Left Bank's most charming squares, with a romantic garden. A large arch on a courtyard leads to Delacroix's studio—no poor artist's studio, but the creation of a solidly established man. Sketches, lithographs, watercolors, and oils are hung throughout. If you want to see more of Delacroix's work, head to the Chapelle des Anges in St-Sulpice (p. 120).

6 place de Furstenberg, 6e. ✆ **01-44-41-86-50.** www.musee-delacroix.fr. Admission 5€ ($7.30) adults, free for children 17 and younger. Wed–Mon 9:30am–5pm. Métro: St-Germain-des-Prés, Mabillon.

Musée Picasso ★★ When it opened at the beautifully restored Hôtel Salé (Salt Mansion, built by a man who made his fortune by controlling the salt distribution in 17th-c. France) in the Marais, the press hailed it as a "museum for Picasso's Picassos," and that's what it is. The state acquired the world's greatest Picasso collection in lieu of his family paying $50 million in inheritance taxes: 203 paintings, 158 sculptures, 16 collages, 19 bas-reliefs, 88 ceramics, and more than 1,500 sketches and 1,600 engravings, along with 30 notebooks. These works span some 75 years of the artist's life and ever-changing style.

The range of paintings includes a remarkable 1901 self-portrait; ***The Crucifixion*** and ***Nude in a Red Armchair;*** and ***Le Baiser (The Kiss), Reclining Nude,*** and ***Man with a Guitar,*** all painted at Mougins on the Riviera in 1969 and 1970. Stroll through the handsome museum and find your own favorite—perhaps the wicked ***Jeune Garçon à la Langouste (Young Man with a Lobster),*** painted in Paris in 1941. Several intriguing studies for ***Les Demoiselles d'Avignon,*** which shocked the establishment and launched cubism in 1907, are also on display. Because the collection is so vast, temporary exhibits featuring items such as his ***Studies of the Minotaur*** are held twice per year. Also here is Picasso's own treasure trove of art, with works by Cézanne, Rousseau, Braque, Derain, and Miró. Picasso was fascinated with African masks, many of which are on view.

In the Hôtel Salé, 5 rue de Thorigny, 3e. ✆ **01-42-71-25-21.** www.musee-picasso.fr. Admission 7.70€ ($11) adults, 5.70€ ($8.30) seniors and ages 18–25, free for children 17 and younger. Apr–Sept Wed–Mon 9:30am–6pm; Oct–Mar Wed–Mon 9:30am–5:30pm. Closed Jan 1 and Dec 25. Métro: St-Paul, Filles du Calvaire, or Chemin Vert.

Musée Rodin ★★ Today Rodin is acclaimed as the father of modern sculpture, but in a different era, his work was labeled obscene. The world's artistic taste changed, and in due course, in 1911, the French government purchased Rodin's studio in this graystone, 18th-century mansion in the Faubourg St-Germain. The government restored the rose gardens to their 18th-century splendor, making them a perfect setting for Rodin's most memorable works.

In the courtyard are three world-famous creations. Rodin's first major public commission, ***The Burghers of Calais,*** commemorated the heroism of six citizens of Calais who in 1347 offered themselves as a ransom to Edward III in return for ending his siege of their port. Perhaps the single best-known work, ***The Thinker,*** in Rodin's own words, "thinks with every muscle of his arms, back, and legs, with his clenched fist and gripping toes." Not completed when Rodin died, ***The Gate of Hell,*** as he put it, is "where I lived for a whole year in Dante's *Inferno.*"

Inside, the sculpture, plaster casts, reproductions, originals, and sketches reveal the freshness and vitality of a remarkable artist. You can almost see his works emerging from marble into life. Everybody is attracted to ***Le Baiser (The Kiss),*** of which one critic wrote, "The passion is timeless." Upstairs are two versions of the celebrated and condemned ***Nude of Balzac,*** his bulky torso rising from a tree trunk (Albert E. Elsen commented on the "glorious bulging" stomach).

Included are many versions of his ***Monument to Balzac*** (a large one stands in the garden), Rodin's last major work. Other significant sculptures are the soaring ***Prodigal Son; The Crouching Woman*** (the "embodiment of despair"); and ***The Age of Bronze,*** an 1876 study of a nude man modeled after a Belgian soldier. (Rodin was falsely accused of making a cast from a living model.) Generally overlooked is a room devoted to Rodin's mistress, Camille Claudel, a towering artist in her own right. She was his pupil, model, and lover, and created such works as ***Maturity, Clotho,*** and the recently donated ***The Waltz*** and ***The Gossips.***

In the Hôtel Biron, 77 rue de Varenne, 7e. ✆ **01-44-18-61-10.** www.musee-rodin.fr. Admission 6€ ($8.70) adults, 4€ ($5.80) ages 18–25, free for children 17 and younger. Apr–Sept Tues–Sun 9:30am–5:45pm; Oct–Mar Tues–Sun 9:30am–4:45pm. Métro: Varenne, Invalides, or Saint-Francois-Xavier.

3 The Major Churches

Turn to "The Top Attractions," earlier in this chapter, for a full look at the **Cathédrale de Notre-Dame, Basilique du Sacré-Coeur,** and **Sainte-Chapelle.**

Basilique St-Denis ★★ In the 12th century, Abbot Suger placed an inscription on the bronze doors here: "Marvel not at the gold and expense, but at the craftsmanship of the work." France's first Gothic building that can be precisely dated, St-Denis was constructed between 1137 and 1281 and was the "spiritual defender of the State" during the reign of Louis VI ("The Fat"). The facade has a rose window and a crenellated parapet on the top similar to the fortifications of a castle. The stained-glass windows—in stunning mauve, purple, blue, and rose—were restored in the 19th century.

The first bishop of Paris, St. Denis became the patron saint of the monarchy, and royal burials began in the 6th century and continued until the Revolution. The sculpture designed for the **tombs**—some two stories high—spans French artistic development from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. (There are guided tours in French of the Carolingian-era crypt.) François I was entombed at St-Denis, and his funeral statue is nude, though he demurely covers himself with his hand. Other kings and queens here include Louis XII and Anne de Bretagne, as well as Henri II and Catherine de Médicis. Revolutionaries stormed through the basilica during the Terror, smashing many marble faces and dumping royal remains in a lime-filled ditch in the garden. (These remains were reburied under the main altar during the 19th c.) Free organ concerts are given on Sundays at 11:15am.

Place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, 2 rue de Strasbourg, St-Denis. ✆ **01-48-09-83-54.** Admission 6.50€ ($9.50) adults and 4.50€ ($6.50) seniors and students 18–25, free for children 17 and younger. Apr–Sept Mon–Sat 10am–6:15pm, Sun noon–6:15pm; Oct–Mar Mon–Sat 10am–5:15pm, Sun noon–5:15pm. Closed Jan 1, May 1, Dec 25. Métro: St-Denis.

St-Etienne-du-Mont ★★ Once there was an abbey here, founded by Clovis and later dedicated to St. Geneviève, the patroness of Paris. Such was the fame of this popular saint that the abbey proved too small to accommodate the pilgrimage crowds. Now part of the Lycée Henri IV, the Tour de Clovis (Tower of Clovis) is all that remains of the ancient abbey—you can see the tower from rue Clovis. Today, the task of keeping St. Geneviève's cult alive has fallen on this church, practically adjoining the Panthéon. The interior is Gothic, an unusual style for a 16th-century church. Building began in 1492 and was plagued by delays until the church was finally finished in 1626.

Besides the patroness of Paris, such men as Pascal and Racine were entombed here. Because of the destruction of church records during the French Revolution, church officials aren't sure of the exact locations in which they're buried. St. Geneviève's tomb was destroyed during the Revolution, but the stone on which her coffin rested was discovered later, and her relics were gathered for a place of honor at St-Etienne. The church possesses a remarkable early-16th-century **rood screen:** Crossing the nave, it's unique in Paris—called spurious by some and a masterpiece by others. Another treasure is a wood **pulpit,** held up by Samson, clutching a bone in one hand, with a slain lion at his feet. The fourth chapel on the right when you enter contains impressive 16th-century stained glass.

1 place St-Geneviève, 5e. ✆ **01-43-54-11-79.** Free admission. With the exception of some of France's school holidays, when hours may vary slightly, the church is open year-round as follows: Mon noon–7:30pm; Tues–Fri 8:45am–7:30pm; Sat 8:45am–noon and 2–7:45pm; Sun 8:45am–12:15pm and 2:30–7:45pm. Métro: Cardinal Lemoine or Luxembourg.

St-Germain l'Auxerrois ★★ Once it was the church for the Palais du Louvre, drawing an assortment of royalty, courtesans, men of art and law, and local artisans. Sharing place du Louvre with Perrault's colonnade, the church contains only the foundation stones of its original 11th-century belfry. The chapel that had stood here was greatly enlarged in the 14th century by the addition of side aisles and became a beautiful church, with 77 sq. m (829 sq. ft.) of stained glass, including some rose windows from the Renaissance. The intricately

carved **church-wardens' pews** are outstanding, based on 17th-century Le Brun designs. Behind them is a **15th-century triptych** and **Flemish retable,** so poorly lit you can hardly appreciate it. The organ was ordered by Louis XVI for Sainte-Chapelle. Many famous men were entombed here, including the sculptor Coysevox and the architect Le Vau. Around the chancel is an intricate **18th-century grille.**

The saddest moment in the church's history was on August 24, 1572, the evening of the St. Bartholomew Massacre. The tower bells rang, signaling the supporters of Catherine de Médicis, Marguerite de Guise, Charles IX, and the future Henri III to launch a slaughter of thousands of Huguenots, who'd been invited to celebrate the marriage of Henri de Navarre to Marguerite de Valois.

2 place du Louvre, 1er. ✆ **01-42-60-13-96.** Free admission. Daily 8am–7pm. Métro: Louvre-Rivoli.

St-Sulpice ★★ Pause first outside St-Sulpice. The 1844 fountain by Visconti displays the sculpted likenesses of four bishops of the Louis XIV era: Fenelon, Massillon, Bossuet, and Flechier. Work on the church, at one time Paris's largest, began in 1646. Though laborers built the body by 1745, work on the bell towers continued until 1780, when one was finished and the other left incomplete. One of the priceless treasures inside is Servandoni's rococo **Chapelle de la Madone (Chapel of the Madonna),** with a Pigalle statue of the Virgin. The church has one of the world's largest organs, comprising 6,700 pipes; it has been played by musicians such as Marcel Dupré and Charles-Mari Widor.

The real reason to come here is to see the Delacroix frescoes in the **Chapelle des Anges (Chapel of the Angels),** the first on your right as you enter. Look for his muscular Jacob wrestling (or dancing?) with an effete angel. On the ceiling, St. Michael is having some troubles with the Devil, and yet another mural depicts Heliodorus being driven from the temple. Painted in Delacroix's final years, the frescoes were a high point in his baffling career. If these impress you, pay the painter tribute by visiting the Musée Delacroix (see "The Major Museums," earlier this chapter).

Rue St-Sulpice, 6e. ✆ **01-42-34-59-98.** Free admission. Daily 7:30am–7:30pm. Métro: St-Sulpice.

4 Architectural & Historic Highlights

Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Site Tolbiac/François Mitterrand The French National Library opened in 1996 with a futuristic design by Dominique Perrault (a quartet of 24-story towers

evoking the look of open books); this is the last of the *grand projets* of the late François Mitterrand. It boasts the same grandiose scale as the Cité de la Musique and houses the nation's literary and historic archives; it's regarded as a repository of the French soul, replacing outmoded facilities on rue des Archives. The library incorporates space for 1,600 readers at a time, many of whom enjoy views over two levels of a garden-style courtyard that seems far removed from Paris's urban congestion.

This is one of Europe's most user-friendly academic facilities, emphasizing computerized documentation and microfiche—a role model that will set academic and literary priorities well into the future. The public has access to as many as 180,000 books, plus thousands of periodicals, with an additional 10 million historic (including medieval) documents available to qualified experts. Though the appeal of this place extends mainly to serious scholars, a handful of special exhibits might interest you, as well as concerts and lectures. Concert tickets rarely exceed 15€ ($22) for adults and 10€ ($15) for students, seniors, and children; a schedule is available at the library.

Quai François-Mauriac, 13e. ✆ **01-53-79-59-59.** www.bnf.fr. Admission 3.30€ ($4.80). No one 15 and younger admitted. Mon 2–8pm; Tues–Sat 10am–8pm; Sun 1–7pm. Closed Sept 6–19. Métro: Bibliothèque François-Mitterrand.

Conciergerie ★★ London has its Bloody Tower, and Paris has its Conciergerie. Even though the Conciergerie had a long regal history before the Revolution, it was forever stained by the Reign of Terror and lives as an infamous symbol of the time when carts pulled up constantly to haul off fresh supplies of victims for Dr. Guillotin's wonderful little invention.

Much of the Conciergerie was built in the 14th century as an extension of the Capetian royal Palais de la Cité. You approach through its landmark twin towers, the **Tour d'Argent** (where the crown jewels were stored at one time) and **Tour de César,** but the **Salle des Gardes (Guard Room)** is the actual entrance. Even more interesting is the dark and foreboding Gothic **Salle des Gens d'Armes (Room of People at Arms),** utterly changed from the days when the king used it as a banquet hall. However, architecture plays a secondary role to the list of prisoners who spent their last days here. Few in its history endured tortures as severe as those imposed on Ravaillac, who assassinated Henri IV in 1610. In the Tour de César, he received pincers in the flesh and had hot lead and boiling oil poured on him like bath water before being executed (see the following Hôtel de Ville entry). During the Revolution, the Conciergerie

became a symbol of terror to the nobility and enemies of the State. Nearby, the Revolutionary Tribunal dispensed a skewed, hurried justice—if it's any consolation, the jurists didn't believe in torturing their victims, only in decapitating them.

After being seized by a crowd of peasants who stormed Versailles, Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were brought here to await their trials. In failing health and shocked beyond grief, *l'Autrichienne* ("the Austrian," as she was called with malice) had only a small screen (sometimes not even that) to protect her modesty from the gaze of guards stationed in her cell. By accounts of the day, she was shy and stupid, though the evidence is that on her death, she displayed the nobility of a true queen. (What's more, the famous "Let them eat cake," which she supposedly uttered when told the peasants had no bread, is probably apocryphal—besides, at the time, cake flour was less expensive than bread flour, so even if she said this, it wasn't meant coldheartedly.) It was on the morning of October 16, 1793, when the executioners arrived, grabbing her and cutting her hair, as was the custom for victims marked for the guillotine.

Later, the Conciergerie housed other prisoners, including Mme Elisabeth; Mme du Barry, mistress of Louis XV; Mme Roland ("O Liberty! Liberty! What crimes are committed in thy name!"); and Charlotte Corday, who killed Marat while he was taking a sulfur bath. In time, the Revolution consumed its own leaders, such as Danton and Robespierre. Finally, one of Paris's most hated men, public prosecutor Fouquier-Tinville, faced the guillotine to which he'd sent so many others. Among the few interned here who lived to tell the tale was American Thomas Paine, who reminisced about his chats in English with Danton.

1 quai de l'Horloge, 4e. ✆ **01-53-40-60-97.** www.monum.fr. Admission 6.50€ ($9.50) adults, 4.50€ ($6.50) ages 18–25, free for children 17 and younger. Mar–Oct daily 9:30am–6pm; Nov–Feb daily 9am–5pm. Métro: Cité, Châtelet, or St-Michel. RER: St-Michel.

Hôtel de Ville ✪ On a large square with fountains and early 1900s lampposts, the 19th-century Hôtel de Ville isn't a hotel, but Paris's grandiose City Hall. The medieval structure it replaced had witnessed countless municipally ordered executions. Henri IV's assassin, Ravaillac, was quartered alive on the square in 1610, his body tied to four horses that bolted in opposite directions. On May 24, 1871, the Communards doused the City Hall with petrol, creating a blaze that lasted for 8 days. The Third Republic ordered the structure rebuilt, with many changes, even creating a Hall of Mirrors

evocative of that at Versailles. For security reasons, the major splendor of this building is closed to the public. However, the information center sponsors exhibits on Paris in the main lobby.

29 rue de Rivoli, 4e. ✆ **01-42-76-43-43.** Free admission. Information center Mon–Sat 10am–6pm. Métro: Hôtel de Ville.

La Grande Arche de La Défense ★ Designed as the architectural centerpiece of the sprawling satellite suburb of La Défense, outside the 16th arrondissement, this massive steel-and-masonry arch rises 35 stories. It was built with the blessing of the late François Mitterrand and extends the magnificently engineered straight line linking the Louvre, Arc de Triomphe du Carrousel, Champs-Elysées, Arc de Triomphe, avenue de la Grande Armée, and place du Porte Maillot. The arch is ringed with a circular avenue patterned after the one around the Arc de Triomphe. The monument is tall enough to shelter Notre-Dame beneath its canopy. An elevator carries you up to an observation platform, where you get a view of the carefully planned geometry of the surrounding streets.

You'll notice nets rigged along the Grande Arche. When pieces of Mitterrand's *grand projet* started falling to the ground, they were erected to catch the falling fragments. If only such protection existed for all politicians' follies!

1 place du parvis de La Défense, Puteaux. ✆ **01-49-07-27-57.** Admission 7.50€ ($11) for adults, 6€ ($8.70) ages 6–25, free 5 and younger. Daily 10am–7pm (until 8pm Apr–Sept). Métro: Grande Arche de la Défense.

Panthéon ★★ Some of the most famous men in French history (Victor Hugo, for one) are buried here on the crest of the mount of St. Geneviève. In 1744, Louis XV vowed that if he recovered from a mysterious illness, he'd build a church to replace the Abbaye de St. Geneviève. He recovered but took his time fulfilling his promise. It wasn't until 1764 that Mme de Pompadour's brother hired Soufflot to design a church in the form of a Greek cross with a dome reminiscent of St. Paul's in London. When Soufflot died, his pupil Rondelet carried out the work, completing the structure 9 years after his master's death.

After the Revolution, the church was converted to a "Temple of Fame" and became a pantheon for the great men of France. Mirabeau was buried here, though his remains were later removed. Likewise, Marat was only a temporary tenant. Voltaire's body was exhumed and placed here—and allowed to remain. In the 19th century, the building changed roles so many times—a church, a pantheon, a church again—that it was hard to keep its function straight.

After Hugo was buried here, it became a pantheon once again. Other notable men entombed within are Rousseau, Soufflot, Zola, and Braille. Only one woman has so far been deemed worthy of placement here: Marie Curie, who joined her husband, Pierre. Most recently, the ashes of André Malraux were transferred to the Panthéon because, according to President Jacques Chirac, he "lived [his] dreams and made them live in us." As Charles de Gaulle's culture minister, Malraux decreed the arts should be part of the lives of all French people, not just Paris's elite.

Before entering the crypt, note the striking frescoes: On the right wall are scenes from Geneviève's life, and on the left is the saint with a white-draped head looking out over medieval Paris, the city whose patron she became, as well as Geneviève relieving victims of famine with supplies.

Place du Panthéon, 5e. ✆ **01-44-32-18-00.** www.monum.fr. Admission 7.50€ ($11) adults, 4.80€ ($7) ages 18–25, free for children 17 and younger. Apr–Sept daily 10am–6:30pm; Oct–Mar daily 10am–6pm (last entrance 45 min. before closing). Métro: Cardinal Lemoine or Maubert-Mutualité.

5 Parks & Gardens

JARDIN DES TUILERIES

The spectacular statue-studded **Jardin des Tuileries** ★★, bordering place de la Concorde, 1er (✆ **01-40-20-90-43;** Métro: Tuileries or Concorde), is as much a part of Paris as the Seine. Le Nôtre, Louis XIV's gardener and planner of the Versailles grounds, designed the gardens. Some of the gardens' most distinctive statues are the 18 enormous bronzes by Maillol, installed within the Jardin du Carrousel, a subdivision of the Jardin des Tuileries, between 1964 and 1965, under the direction of Culture Minister André Malraux.

About 100 years before that, Catherine de Médicis ordered a palace built here, the **Palais des Tuileries;** other occupants have included Louis XVI (after he left Versailles) and Napoleon. Twice attacked by Parisians, it was burned to the ground in 1871 and never rebuilt. The gardens, however, remain. In orderly French manner, the trees are arranged according to designs, and even the paths are arrow-straight. Bubbling fountains break the sense of order and formality. It's open April to September daily 7am to 9pm, October to March daily 7am to 7:30pm, and admission is free.

JARDIN DU LUXEMBOURG

Hemingway once told a friend that the **Jardin du Luxembourg** ★★, in the 6th arrondissement (Métro: Odéon; RER: Luxembourg),

"kept us from starvation." He related that in his poverty-stricken days in Paris, he wheeled a baby carriage (the vehicle was considered luxurious) through the garden because it was known "for the classiness of its pigeons." When the gendarme went across the street for a glass of wine, the writer would eye his victim, preferably a plump one; lure him with corn; "snatch him, wring his neck"; and hide him under the blanket. "We got a little tired of pigeons that year," he confessed, "but they filled many a void."

The Luxembourg has always been associated with artists, though children, students, and tourists predominate nowadays. Watteau came this way, as did Verlaine. Balzac didn't like the gardens at all. In 1905, Gertrude Stein would cross them to catch the Batignolles/Clichy/Odéon omnibus, pulled by three gray mares, to meet Picasso in his studio at Montmartre, where he painted her portrait.

The gardens are the attraction at Luxembourg. For the most part, they're in the classic French tradition: well groomed and formally laid out, the trees planted in patterns. Urns and statuary on pedestals—one honoring Paris's patroness, St. Geneviève, with pigtails reaching to her thighs—encircle a central water basin. Kids can sail a toy boat, ride a pony, or attend an occasional Grand Guignol puppet show. And you can play *boules* (lawn bowling) with a group of elderly men who wear black berets and have Gauloises dangling from their mouths.

6 Cemeteries

Sightseers often view Paris's cemeteries as being somewhat like parks—suitable places for strolling. The graves of celebrities are also major lures. Père-Lachaise, for example, is a major attraction; the other cemeteries are of lesser interest.

Cimetière de Montmartre ✪ This cemetery, established in 1795, lies west of Montmartre and north of boulevard de Clichy. Russian dancer **Vaslav Nijinsky,** novelist **Alexandre Dumas *fils,*** impressionist **Edgar Degas,** and composers **Hector Berlioz** and **Jacques Offenbach** are interred here, along with **Stendhal** and lesser literary lights such as **Edmond** and **Jules de Goncourt** and **Heinrich Heine.** A more recent tombstone honors **François Truffaut,** film director of the *nouvelle vague* (new wave). We like to pay our respects at the tomb of **Alphonsine Plessis,** heroine of *La Dame aux Camélias,* and **Mme Récamier,** who taught the world how to lounge. **Emile Zola** was buried here, but his corpse was exhumed

and promoted to the Panthéon in 1908. In 1871, the cemetery was used for mass burials of victims of the Siege and the Commune.

20 av. Rachel (west of the Butte Montmartre and north of bd. de Clichy), 18e. ✆ **01-53-42-36-30.** Sun–Fri 8am–6pm; Sat 8:30am–6pm (closes at 5:30pm in winter). Métro: La Fourche.

Cimetière du Père-Lachaise ★★★ When it comes to name-dropping, this cemetery knows no peer; it has been called the "grandest address in Paris." A free map of Père-Lachaise is available at the newsstand across from the main entrance (additional map on p. 127).

Everybody from **Sarah Bernhardt** to **Oscar Wilde** to **Richard Wright** is resting here, along with **Honoré de Balzac, Jacques-Louis David, Eugène Delacroix, Maria Callas, Max Ernst,** and **Georges Bizet. Colette** was taken here in 1954; her black granite slab always sports flowers, and legend has it that cats replenish the roses. In time, the "little sparrow," **Edith Piaf,** followed. The lover of George Sand, poet **Alfred de Musset,** was buried under a weeping willow. Napoleon's marshals, **Ney** and **Masséna,** lie here, as do **Frédéric Chopin** and **Molière. Marcel Proust**'s black tombstone rarely lacks a tiny bunch of violets (he wanted to be buried beside his friend/lover, composer **Maurice Ravel,** but their families wouldn't allow it).

Some tombs are sentimental favorites: Love-torn graffiti radiates 1km (half a mile) from the grave of Doors singer **Jim Morrison.** The great dancer **Isadora Duncan** came to rest in the Columbarium, where bodies have been cremated and "filed" away. If you search hard enough, you can find the tombs of that star-crossed pair **Abélard** and **Héloïse,** the ill-fated lovers of the 12th century—at Père-Lachaise, they've found peace at last. Other famous lovers also rest here: A stone is marked **Alice B. Toklas** on one side and **Gertrude Stein** on the other; and eventually, France's First Couple of film were reunited when **Yves Montand** joined his wife, **Simone Signoret.** (Montand's gravesite attracted much attention in 1998: His corpse was exhumed in the middle of the night for DNA testing in a paternity lawsuit. He wasn't the father.)

Covering more than 44 hectares (109 acres), Père-Lachaise was acquired by the city in 1804. Nineteenth-century sculpture abounds, as each family tried to outdo the others in ostentation. Monuments also honor Frenchmen who died in the Resistance or in Nazi concentration camps. Some French Socialists still pay tribute at the **Mur des Fédérés,** the anonymous gravesite of the Communards who were

Abélard & Héloïse	37	Jean La Fontaine	33
Guillaume Apollinaire	5	René Lalique	12
Pierre-Auguste Beaumarchais	30	Lefebvre Masséna	29
Hans Bellmer	24	Amedeo Modigliani	28
Sarah Bernhardt	9	Molière	32
Georges Bizet	17	Jim Morrison	35
Maria Callas	3	Alfred de Musset	21
Frédéric Chopin	36	Edith Piaf	27
Colette	23	Camille Pissarro	38
Auguste Comte	34	Marcel Proust	4
Jean Baptiste Camille Corot	11	Gioacchio Antonio Rossini	22
Honoré Daumier	10	Rothschild family plot	39
Jacques-Louis David	19	Henri de Saint-Simon	31
Honoré de Balzac	16	Georges Seurat	18
Eugène Delacroix	15	Simone Signoret & Yves Montand	8
Gustave Doré	14	Gertrude Stein & Alice B. Toklas	25
Isadora Duncan	6	Oscar Wilde	1
Paul Eluard	26	Richard Wright	7
Max Ernst	2		
Théodore Géricault	20		
Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres	13		

executed in the cemetery on May 28, 1871. When these last-ditch fighters of the Commune, the world's first anarchist republic, made their final desperate stand against the troops of the French government, they were overwhelmed, lined up against the wall, and shot in groups. A handful survived and hid in the cemetery for years like wild animals, venturing into Paris at night to forage for food.

16 rue de Repos, 20e. ✆ **01-55-25-82-10.** www.pere-lachaise.com. Mon–Fri 8am–6pm; Sat-Sun 8:30am–6pm (closes at 5pm Nov–early Mar). Métro: Père-Lachaise or Philippe Auguste.

7 Paris Underground

Les Catacombes ★ Every year, an estimated 50,000 visitors explore some 910m (2,986 ft.) of tunnel in these dank catacombs to look at six million ghoulishly arranged, skull-and-crossbones skeletons. First opened to the public in 1810, this "empire of the dead" is now illuminated with electric lights over its entire length. In the Middle Ages, the catacombs were quarries, but by the end of the 18th century, overcrowded cemeteries were becoming a menace to public health. City officials decided to use the catacombs as a burial ground, and the bones of several million persons were transferred here. In 1830, the prefect of Paris closed the catacombs, considering them obscene and indecent. During World War II, the catacombs were the headquarters of the French Resistance.

1 place du Colonel Henri Rol-Tanguy, 14e. ✆ **01-43-22-47-63.** www.catacombes-de-paris.fr. Admission 7€ ($10) adults, 5.10€ ($7.40) seniors, 3.50€ ($5.10) ages 14–25, free for children 13 and younger. Tues–Sun 10am–4pm. Métro: Denfert-Rochereau.

Les Egouts ★ Some sociologists assert that the sophistication of a society can be judged by the way it disposes of waste. If so, Paris receives good marks for its mostly invisible sewer network. Victor Hugo is credited with making them famous in *Les Misérables:* Jean Valjean takes flight through them, "all dripping with slime, his soul filled with a strange light." Hugo also wrote, "Paris has beneath it another Paris, a Paris of sewers, which has its own streets, squares, lanes, arteries, and circulation."

In the early Middle Ages, drinking water was taken directly from the Seine, and wastewater poured onto fields or thrown onto the unpaved streets transformed the urban landscape into a sea of rather smelly mud. Around 1200, the streets were paved with cobblestones, and open sewers ran down the center of each. These open sewers helped spread the Black Death, which devastated the city. In 1370,

a vaulted sewer was built on rue Montmartre, draining effluents into a Seine tributary. During Louis XIV's reign, improvements were made, but the state of waste disposal in Paris remained deplorable.

During Napoleon's reign, 31km (19 miles) of sewer were constructed beneath Paris. By 1850, as the Industrial Revolution made the manufacture of iron pipe and steam-digging equipment more practical, Baron Haussmann developed a system that used separate channels for drinking water and sewage. By 1878, it was 580km (360 miles) long. Beginning in 1894, the network was enlarged, and laws required that discharge of all waste and storm-water runoff be funneled into the sewers. Between 1914 and 1977, an additional 966km (600 miles) were added. Today, the network of sewers is 2,093km (1,300 miles) long.

The city's sewers are constructed around four principal tunnels, one 5.5m (18 ft.) wide and 4.5m (15 ft.) high. It's like an underground city, with the street names clearly labeled. Sewer tours begin at pont de l'Alma on the Left Bank, where a stairway leads into the city's bowels. Visiting times might change during bad weather, as a storm can make the sewers dangerous. The tour consists of a film, a small museum visit, and then a short trip through the maze. ***Warning:*** The smell is pretty bad, especially in summer.

Pont de l'Alma, 7e. ✆ **01-53-68-27-82.** Admission 4.10€ ($6) adults; 3.30€ ($4.80) seniors, students, and children 5–16; free for children 4 and younger. May–Sept Sat–Wed 11am–5pm; Oct–Apr Sat–Wed 11am–4pm. Métro: Alma-Marceau. RER: Pont de l'Alma.

8 Neighborhood Highlights

Some of Paris's neighborhoods are attractions unto themselves. The 1st arrondissement probably has a higher concentration of attractions per block than anywhere else. Though all Paris's neighborhoods are worth wandering, some are more interesting than others. This is especially true of Montmartre, the Latin Quarter, and the Marais.

ISLANDS IN THE STREAM: ILE DE LA CITE & ILE ST-LOUIS

ILE DE LA CITÉ ★★★ WHERE PARIS WAS BORN

Medieval Paris, that blend of grotesquerie and Gothic beauty, bloomed on this island in the Seine (Métro: Cité). Ile de la Cité, which the Seine protects like a surrounding moat, has been known as "the cradle" of Paris ever since. As Sauval once observed, "The Island of the City is shaped like a great ship, sunk in the mud, lengthwise in the stream, in about the middle of the Seine."

Few have written more movingly about its heyday than Victor Hugo, who invited the reader "to observe the fantastic display of lights against the darkness of that gloomy labyrinth of buildings; cast upon it a ray of moonlight, showing the city in glimmering vagueness, with its towers lifting their great heads from that foggy sea." Medieval Paris was a city not only of legends and lovers, but also of blood-curdling tortures and brutalities. No story illustrates this better than the affair of Abélard and his charge Héloïse, whose jealous uncle hired ruffians to castrate her lover. (The attack predictably quelled their ardor; he became a monk, and she, an abbess.) You can see their graves at Père-Lachaise (see the above "Cemeteries" section).

Because you'll want to see all the attractions on Ile de la Cité, begin at the cathedral of Notre-Dame. Proceed next to the Sainte-Chapelle, moving west. After a visit there, you can head northeast to the Conciergerie. To cap off your visit, and for the best scenic view, walk to the northwestern end of the island for a view of the bridge, pont Neuf, seen from square du Vert Galant.

The island's stars, as mentioned, are **Notre-Dame, Sainte-Chapelle,** and the **Conciergerie**—all described earlier. Across from Notre-Dame is the **Hôtel Dieu,** built from 1866 to 1878 in neo-Florentine style. This is central Paris's main hospital, replacing the 12th-century hospital that ran the island's entire width. Go in the main entrance, and take a break in the spacious neoclassical courtyard whose small garden and fountain make a quiet oasis.

Don't miss the ironically named **pont Neuf (New Bridge)** at the tip of the island opposite from Notre-Dame. The span isn't new—it's Paris's oldest bridge, begun in 1578 and finished in 1604. In its day, it had two unique features: It was paved, and it wasn't flanked with houses and shops. Actually, with 12 arches, it's not one bridge but two (they don't quite line up)—one from the Right Bank to the island and the other from the Left Bank to the island. At the **Musée Carnavalet**, a painting called *The Spectacle of Buffoons* shows what the bridge was like between 1665 and 1669. Duels were fought on it, the nobility's great coaches crossed it, peddlers sold their wares, and entertainers such as Tabarin went there to perform. As public facilities were lacking, the bridge also served as a *de facto* outhouse.

Just past pont Neuf is the "prow" of the island, the **square du Vert Galant.** Pause to look at the equestrian statue of beloved Henri IV, who was assassinated by Ravaillac (see the entry for the Conciergerie). A true king of his people, Henri was also (to judge from

Area of Detail
Métro
RER stop
0 1/10 Mi
0 0.1 Km
Seine
ILE DE LA CITÉ
ILE ST-LOUIS
Hôtel de Ville
Tribunal de Commerce
Préfecture de Police
Ste-Chapelle
Hôtel Dieu
Notre-Dame
St-Julien-le-Pauvre Church
St-Louis-en-l'Ile
square du Vert Galant
place Dauphine
pont Neuf
rue Dauphine
rue des Grands-Augustins
quai des Orfèvres
quai de l'Horloge
pont au Change
boulevard St-Germain
rue St-André-des-Arts
rue Danton
rue de Rivoli
quai de Gesvres
quai de la Corse
quai aux Fleurs
rue de la Cité
rue de Lutèce
quai du Marché-Neuf
quai de Montebello
rue Lagrange
quai de la Tournelle
quai de Bourbon
quai d'Orléans
quai de Béthune
quai d'Anjou
rue des Deux-Ponts
rue St-Louis-en-l'Ile
rue Poulletier
rue de Bretonvilliers
rue du Figuier
quai des Célestins
rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville
rue des Ursins
rue Chanoinesse
rue d'Arcole
rue Le Regrattier
rue Bailly
rue Boutarel
pont Marie
pont de la Tournelle
pont de Sully
square Barye
square de l'Ile de France Mémorial de la Déportation
square Jean XXIII
square René Viviani
pont St-Louis
pont Louis-Philippe
pont d'Arcole
pont au Double
petit pont
pont St-Michel
pont St-Michel
pont Notre-Dame
place du Parvis
place Louis-Lépine
place St-Gervais
place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville
place St-André des Arts
place St-Michel
CHÂTELET
HÔTEL DE VILLE
CITÉ
ST-MICHEL
ST-MICHEL-ND
ODÉON
MAUBERT-MUTUALITÉ
PT-MARIE
4e
5e
6e

accounts) regal in the boudoir—hence the nickname "Vert Galant" (Old Spark). Gabrielle d'Estrées and Henriette d'Entragues were his best-known mistresses, but they had to share him with countless others, some of whom would casually catch his eye as he was riding along the streets. In fond memory of the king, the little triangular park continues to attract lovers. It appears to be a sunken garden because it remains at its natural level; the rest of the Cité has been built up during the centuries.

ILE ST-LOUIS ★★ Cross the pont St-Louis, the footbridge behind Notre-Dame, to Ile St-Louis, and you'll find a world of tree-shaded quays, town houses with courtyards, restaurants, and antiques shops. (You can also take the Métro to Sully-Morland or Pont Marie and cross the bridge.) The fraternal twin of Ile de la Cité, Ile St-Louis is primarily residential; nearly all the houses were built from 1618 to 1660, lending the island a remarkable architectural unity. Plaques on the facades identify the former residences of the famous. **Marie Curie** lived at 36 quai de Béthune, near pont de la Tournelle, and sculptor **Camille Claudel** (Rodin's mistress) lived and worked in the Hôtel de Jassaud, 19 quai de Bourbon.

The most exciting mansion—though perhaps with the saddest history—is the 1656-to-1657 **Hôtel de Lauzun,** 17 quai d'Anjou, built for Charles Gruyn des Bordes. He married Geneviève de Mouy and had her initials engraved on much of the interior decor; their happiness was short-lived, because he was convicted of embezzlement and sent to prison in 1662. The next occupant was the duc de Lauzun, who resided there for only 3 years. He had been a favorite of Louis XIV until he asked for the hand of the king's cousin, the duchesse de Montpensier. Louis refused and had Lauzun tossed into the Bastille. Eventually, the duchesse pestered Louis into releasing him, and they married secretly and moved here in 1682, but domestic bliss eluded them—they fought often and separated in 1684. Lauzun sold the house to the grandnephew of Cardinal Richelieu and his wife, who had such a grand time throwing parties they went bankrupt. Baron Pichon bought it in 1842 and rented it out to a hashish club. Tenants Baudelaire and Gaultier regularly held hashish soirees in which Baudelaire did research for his *Les Paradis Artificiels* and Gaultier for his *Le Club des Hachichins.* Now the mansion belongs to the city and is used to house official guests. It is sometimes open for temporary exhibits, so call the tourist office.

Hôtel Lambert, 2 quai d'Anjou, was built in 1645 for Nicholas Lambert de Thorigny. The portal on rue St-Louis-en-l'Ile gives some

idea of the splendor within, but the house's most startling element is the oval gallery extending into the garden. Designed to feature a library or art collection, it's best viewed from the beginning of quai d'Anjou. Voltaire and his mistress, Emilie de Breteuil, lived here; their quarrels were legendary. The mansion also housed the Polish royal family for more than a century. It now belongs to the Rothschild family and isn't open to the public.

Nos. 9, 11, 13, and 15 quai d'Anjou also belonged to the Lamberts. At **no. 9** is the house where painter/sculptor/lithographer Honoré Daumier lived from 1846 to 1863, producing hundreds of caricatures satirizing the bourgeoisie and attacking government corruption. He was imprisoned because of his 1832 cartoon of Louis-Philippe swallowing bags of gold extracted from the people.

Near the Hôtel de Lauzun is the church of **St-Louis-en-l'Ile,** no. 19 bis rue St-Louis-en-l'Ile. Despite a dour exterior, the interior is one of the finest examples of Jesuit baroque. Built between 1664 and 1726, this church is still the site of many weddings—with all the white stone and gilt, you'll feel as if you're inside a wedding cake. Look for the 1926 plaque reading "In grateful memory of St. Louis in whose honor the city of St. Louis, Missouri, USA, is named."

RIGHT BANK HIGHLIGHTS

LES HALLES ★ For 8 centuries, **Les Halles** (Métro: Les Halles; RER: Châtelet–Les Halles) was the city's major wholesale fruit, meat, and vegetable market. In the 19th century, Zola called it "the underbelly of Paris." The smock-clad vendors, beef carcasses, and baskets of vegetables all belong to the past, for the original market, with zinc-roofed Second Empire "iron umbrellas," has been torn down. Today the action has moved to a steel-and-glass edifice at Rungis, a suburb near Orly. In 1979 the **Forum des Halles,** 1–7 rue Pierre-Lescot, 1er, opened. This large complex, much of it underground, contains shops, restaurants, and movie theaters. The shops contain a wide display of merchandise that has made the mall popular with residents and visitors.

For many visitors, a night on the town still ends in the wee hours with a bowl of onion soup at Les Halles, usually at **Au Pied de Cochon (The Pig's Foot),** 6 rue Coquillière, 1er (✆ **01-40-13-77-00;** p. 59), or at **Au Chien Qui Fume (The Smoking Dog),** 33 rue du Pont-Neuf, 1er (✆ **01-42-36-07-42**). One of the classic scenes of old Paris was elegantly dressed Parisians standing at a bar drinking cognac with blood-smeared butchers. Some writers have

suggested that 19th-century poet Gérard de Nerval introduced the custom of frequenting Les Halles at such an unearthly hour.

A newspaper correspondent described today's scene: "Les Halles is trying to stay alive as one of the few places where one can eat at any hour of the night."

LEFT BANK HIGHLIGHTS

ST-GERMAIN-DES-PRES ★★ This neighborhood in the 6th arrondissement (Métro: St-Germain-des-Prés) was the postwar home of existentialism, associated with Sartre, De Beauvoir, Camus, and an intellectual bohemian crowd that gathered at **Café de Flore** and **Les Deux Magots** (see chapter 3). Among them, black-clad poet and singer Juliette Greco was known as *la muse de St-Germain-des-Prés,* and to Sartre, she was the woman who had "millions of poems in her throat." Her long hair, black slacks, black sweater, and black sandals launched a fashion trend adopted by young women everywhere. In the 1950s, new names appeared, such as Françoise Sagan, Gore Vidal, and James Baldwin, but by the 1960s, tourists were firmly entrenched.

St-Germain-des-Prés still retains an intellectually stimulating bohemian street life, full of many interesting bookshops, art galleries, *cave* (basement) clubs, bistros, and coffeehouses. But the stars of the area are two churches, **St-Germain-des-Prés,** 3 place St-Germain-des-Prés, and **St-Sulpice,** rue St-Sulpice (for both, see "The Major Churches," earlier in this chapter), and the **Musée National Eugène Delacroix,** 6 place de Furstenberg (p. 116). Nearby, **rue Visconti** was designed for pushcarts and is worth visiting today. At **nos. 20–24** is the residence where dramatist Jean-Baptiste Racine died in 1699. And at **no. 17** is the house where Balzac established his printing press in 1825. (The venture ended in bankruptcy, forcing the author back to his writing desk.) Such celebrated actresses as Champmeslé and Clairon also lived here.

9 Organized Tours

BY BUS

Before plunging into sightseeing on your own, you may like to take the most popular get-acquainted tour in Paris: **Cityrama,** 2 rue des Pyramides, 1er (✆ **01-44-55-61-00;** Métro: Palais-Royal–Musée du Louvre). On a double-decker bus with enough windows for Versailles, you take a 2-hour ride through the city. You don't go inside any attractions, but you get a look at the outside of Notre-Dame and

Moments Friday Night "Rando" Fever

The Paris Roller Rando takes over the city on Friday nights, "rando" being short for *randonnée,* meaning tour or excursion. The starting time is around 10pm at the place d'Italie (also the name of the Métro stop). Roller folk from Paris and throughout Ile de France amass here to begin their 3-hour weekly journey through the city on rollerblades. Every Friday three motorcycle policemen lead the way with dome lights flashing, signaling moving cars to get out of the way. First-aid wagons follow the "rollers." On an average night in Paris, some 20,000 rollers show up. Many visitors like to stay up late that night to watch these "mad, mad Parisians" in all their crazed "rollermania."

the Eiffel Tower, among other sites, and it helps you get a feel for the city. There's commentary in eight languages on earphones. Tours depart daily at 10am, 11:30am, and 2:30pm. A 11/2-hour orientation tour is 18€ ($26) adults, 9.50€ ($14) children. A morning tour with interior visits to the Louvre costs 40€ ($58). Half-day tours to Versailles (62€/$90) and Chartres (56€/$81) are a good value and relieve some of the hassle associated with visiting those monuments. A joint ticket that includes Versailles and Chartres costs 99€ ($144). A tour of the nighttime illuminations leaves daily at 10pm in summer, 7pm in winter, and costs 23€ ($33); it tends to be tame and touristy.

The **RATP** (✆ **08-92-68-77-14;** www.ratp.fr), which runs regular public transportation, also operates the **Balabus,** a fleet of orange-and-white big-windowed motor coaches. The only drawback is their limited operating times: Sunday and national holidays from 12:30 to 8:30pm, from April to the end of September. Itineraries run in both directions between Gare de Lyon and the Grand Arche de La Défense. Three Métro tickets will carry you along the entire route. You'll recognize the bus, and the route it follows, by the *Bb* symbol on its side and on signs posted along its route.

CRUISES ON THE SEINE

A boat tour on the Seine provides vistas of the riverbanks and some of the best views of Notre-Dame. Many boats have sun decks, bars, and restaurants. **Bateaux-Mouche** (✆ **01-42-25-96-10;** www.bateaux-mouches.fr; Métro: Alma-Marceau) cruises depart from the Right

Bank of the Seine, adjacent to pont de l'Alma, and last about 75 minutes. Tours leave daily at 20- to 30-minute intervals from 10am to 11pm between April and September. Between October and March, there are at least five departures daily between 11am and 9pm, with a schedule that changes according to demand and the weather. Fares are 9€ ($13) for adults and 4€ ($5.80) for children 4 to 13. Dinner cruises depart daily at 8:30pm, last 2 hours, and cost 95€ to 125€ ($138–$181). On dinner cruises, jackets and ties are required for men. There are also lunch cruises Saturday and Sunday at 1pm, costing 50€ ($73) for adults or 25€ ($36) for ages 11 and younger.

Some people enjoy excursions on the Seine and its canals. The 2 ½-hour **Seine et le Canal St-Martin** tour, offered by **Paris Canal** (✆ **01-42-40-96-97;** www.pariscanal.com), requires reservations. The tour begins at 9:30am on the quays in front of the Musée d'Orsay (Métro: Solférino) and at 2:30pm in front of the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie at Parc de la Villette (Métro: Porte de la Villette). Excursions negotiate the waterways of Paris, including the Seine, an underground tunnel below place de la Bastille, and the Canal St-Martin. Tours are offered twice daily from mid-March to mid-November; the rest of the year, on Sunday only. On these tours, recorded commentary in French and English relates how building supplies and food staples were hauled, with relative efficiency, into central Paris during the capital's building boom in the Napoleonic age of the 19th century. The cost is 17€ ($25) for adults, 14€ ($20) for seniors 60 and older and students ages 12 to 25, 10€ ($15) ages 4 to 11, and free for children 3 and younger.

OTHER TOURS

The first audio-guided tours of Paris have been launched by **Audio Visit,** which takes you through such famous neighborhoods as the Champs-Elysées district, Louvre/Opéra, and Montmartre. English commentaries are available, costing 8€ ($12) per half-day or 15€ ($22) for both audioguide and bike during the same time frame. Rentals of the audioguide are available at the Syndicat d'Initiative de Montmartre, 21 place du Tertre, 18e; Paris Story, 11 bis, rue Scribe, 9e; and Maison Roue Libre, Forum de Halles, 1 Passage Montdétour, 1er. For more information, call ✆ **04-78-29-60-72,** or visit www.audiovisit.com.

Context:Paris (✆ **888/467-1986** in the U.S., or 06-13-09-67-11; www.contextparis.com) is an organization of graduate students and art-history professors who lead thematic walking tours of

the city. Tours range from 1-hour orientation "chats" to 4-hour in-depth visits of the Louvre. The guides try to create a college seminar feeling without being too obscure and scholarly. Context:Paris also rents cell phones, arranges transportation, and organizes culinary excursions. Prices vary widely depending on what itinerary you select, but many tours cost 30€ to 90€ ($44–$131) per person.

5 Shopping in Paris

You don't have to buy anything to appreciate shopping in Paris—just soak up the art form the French have made of rampant consumerism. Peer in the *vitrines* (display windows), absorb cutting-edge ideas, witness new trends, and take home a whole new education in style.

1 The Shopping Scene

BEST BUYS

FOODSTUFFS Nothing makes a better souvenir than a product of France brought home to savor later. Supermarkets are located in tourist neighborhoods; stock up on coffee, designer chocolates, mustards (try Maille or Meaux brands), and perhaps American products in French packages for the kids. However, to be sure you don't try to bring home a prohibited foodstuff, see section 2, "Entry Requirements," in chapter 1, "Planning Your Trip to Paris."

FUN FASHION Sure, you can buy couture or *prêt-à-porter* (ready-to-wear), but French teens and trendsetters have their own stores where the latest looks are affordable. Even the dime stores in Paris sell designer copies. In the stalls in front of the department stores on boulevard Haussmann, you'll find the latest accessories.

PERFUMES, MAKEUP & BEAUTY TREATMENTS A discount of 20% to 30% makes these items a great buy; qualify for a VAT refund (see the following section), and you'll save 40% to 45% off the Paris retail price, allowing you to bring home goods at half the U.S. price. Duty-free shops abound in Paris and are always less expensive than the ones at the airports.

For bargain cosmetics, try out French dime-store and drugstore brands such as **Bourjois** (made in the Chanel factories), **Lierac,** and **Galenic. Vichy,** famous for its water, has a skincare and makeup line. A retail trend in Paris is the *parapharmacie,* a type of discount drugstore loaded with inexpensive brands, health cures, beauty regimes, and diet plans. These usually offer a 20% discount.

GETTING A VAT REFUND

The French **value-added tax** (**VAT—TVA** in French) is 16.38%, but you can get most of that back if you spend 175€ ($254) or more in any store that participates in the VAT refund program. Most stores participate.

When you meet your required minimum purchase amount, you qualify for a tax refund. The amount of the refund varies with the way the refund is handled and the fee some stores charge you for processing it. So the refund at a department store may be 13%, whereas at a small shop it may be 15% or even 18%.

The amount of VAT a merchant will charge varies widely with the product, ranging from 2.1% for medications and medicines and essential aspects of life to as high as 33% for luxury goods such as yachts and jewelry and perfume. The average VAT is 20.06%, and there is a profoundly complicated and always-contested list of rates applying to specific items. The French government sets no minimum for the amount of a refund anyone can claim, but some minimums are set by individual stores before they'll do any processing. Even if during the lifetime of this edition, some of the fine print associated with VAT refunds changes (and by historical precedent, it probably will), the most important thing a visitor should do is maintain easy access to both the receipts and to the merchandise as a means of proving to French customs the sums you spent on French taxes while you were there.

You'll receive **VAT refund papers** in the shop; some stores, such as Hermès, have their own, while others provide a government form. Fill in the forms before you arrive at the airport and expect to stand in line at the Customs desk for as long as half an hour. You must show the goods at the airport, so have them on you or visit the Customs office before you check your luggage. After the papers are mailed, a credit will appear, often months later, on your credit card bill. All refunds are processed at the point of departure from the **European Union (EU),** so if you're going to another EU country, don't apply for the refund in France.

Be sure to mark the paperwork to request that your refund be applied to your credit card so you aren't stuck with a check in euros, which may be hard to cash. This also ensures the best rate of exchange. In some airports, you're offered the opportunity to get your refund back in cash, which is tempting. But if you accept cash in any currency other than euros, you'll lose money on the conversion rate.

To avoid refund hassles, ask for a Global Refund form ("Shopping Checque") at a store where you make a purchase. When leaving an EU country, have it stamped by Customs, after which you take it to a Global Refund counter at one of more than 700 airports and border crossings in France. Your money is refunded on the spot. For information, contact **Global Refund,** 18 rue de Calais, 75009 Paris (✆ **01-41-61-51-51;** www.globalrefund.com).

GREAT SHOPPING NEIGHBORHOODS

Here are the best of the shopping arrondissements:

1ST & 8TH ARRONDISSEMENTS These two arrondissements adjoin each other and form the heart of Paris's best Right Bank shopping strip—they're one big hunting ground. This area includes the **rue du Faubourg St-Honoré,** where the big designer houses are, and the **Champs-Elysées,** with hot mass-market and teen scenes. At one end of the 1st is the **Palais Royal,** one of the best shopping secrets in Paris, where an arcade of boutiques flanks each side of the garden of the former palace.

Also here is **avenue Montaigne,** Paris's most glamorous shopping street, boasting 2 blocks of ultrafancy shops, where you float from big name to big name and in a few hours can see everything from Dior to Caron. Avenue Montaigne is also the address of **Joseph,** a British design firm, and **Porthault,** maker of incredibly posh sheets.

2ND ARRONDISSEMENT Right behind the Palais Royal is the **Garment District (Sentier),** as well as a few sophisticated shopping secrets, such as **place des Victoires.**

In the 19th century, this area became known for its *passages,* glass-enclosed shopping streets—in fact, the world's first shopping malls. They were also the city's first buildings to be illuminated by gaslight. Many have been torn down, but a dozen or so have survived. Of them all, we prefer **Passage de Grand Cerf,** between 145 rue St-Denis and 10 rue Dussoubs (Métro: Bourse), lying a few blocks from the Beaubourg. It's a place of wonder, filled with everything from retro-chic boutiques to Asian-themed shops.

3RD & 4TH ARRONDISSEMENTS The border between these two arrondissements gets fuzzy, especially around **place des Vosges,** center stage of the Marais. The districts provide several dramatically different shopping experiences.

On the surface, the shopping includes the "real people stretch" of **rue de Rivoli** and **rue St-Antoine,** featuring everything from Gap and a branch of Marks & Spencer to local discount stores and mass

merchants. Hidden in the Marais is a medieval warren of twisting streets chockablock with cutting-edge designers and up-to-the-minute fashions and trends. Start by walking around place des Vosges for galleries, designer shops, and special finds; then dive in and lose yourself in the area leading to the Musée Picasso.

Finally, the 4th is the home of the **Bastille,** an up-and-coming area for artists and galleries, where you'll find the newest entry on the retail scene, the **Viaduc des Arts** (which actually stretches into the 12th). It's a collection of about 30 stores occupying a series of narrow vaulted niches under what used to be railroad tracks. They run parallel to avenue Daumesnil, centered on boulevard Diderot.

6TH & 7TH ARRONDISSEMENTS Though the 6th is one of the most famous shopping districts in Paris—it's the soul of the Left Bank—a lot of the good stuff is hidden in the zone that turns into the residential district of the 7th. **Rue du Bac,** stretching from the 6th to the 7th, stands for all that wealth and glamour can buy.

9TH ARRONDISSEMENT To add to the fun of shopping the Right Bank, the 9th sneaks in behind the 1st, so if you choose not to walk toward the Champs-Elysées and the 8th, you can head to the city's big department stores, all built in a row along **boulevard Haussmann** in the 9th. Department stores include not only the two big French icons, **Au Printemps** and **Galeries Lafayette,** but also a large branch of Britain's **Marks & Spencer.**

2 Shopping A to Z

ANTIQUES

Le Louvre des Antiquaires ★★ Across from the Louvre, this store offers three levels of fancy knickknacks and 250 vendors. It's just the place if you're looking for 30 matching Baccarat-crystal champagne flutes from the 1930s, a Sèvres tea service from 1773, or a signed Jean Fouquet gold-and-diamond pin. Too stuffy? No problem. There's always the 1940 Rolex with the aubergine crocodile strap. Prices can be high, but a few reasonable items are hidden here. Open Tuesday to Sunday 9am to 7pm. Closed Sunday July to Aug. 2 place du Palais Royal, 1er. ✆ **01-42-97-27-27.** www.louvre-antiquaires.com. Métro: Palais-Royal.

Village St-Paul This isn't an antiques center, but a cluster of dealers in their own hole-in-the-wall hideout. It really hops on Sunday. Inside the courtyards and alleys is a dream vision of hidden Paris: dealers in a courtyard selling furniture and other decorative items in

French-country and formal styles. The rest of the street, stretching from the river to the Marais, is also lined with dealers. Open Thursday to Monday 11am to 7pm. 23–27 rue St-Paul, 4e. No phone. www.village-saint-paul.com. Métro: St-Paul.

ART

Galerie Adrien Maeght ★★★ This art house is among the most famous names, selling contemporary art on a fancy Left Bank street that's far more fashionable than the bohemian Left Bank that Picasso knew. Open Monday 10am to 6pm; Tuesday to Saturday 9:30am to 7pm. 42 rue du Bac, 7e. ✆ **01-45-48-45-15.** www.maeght.com. Métro: Rue du Bac.

Galerie 27 This tiny closet sells etchings, lithographs by famous artists of the early 20th century, including Picasso, Miró, Braque, and Léger. Contemporary artists are also represented. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 1pm and 2:30 to 7pm. 27 rue de Seine, 6e. ✆ **01-43-54-78-54.** Métro: St-Germain-des-Prés, Odéon or Mabillon.

BOOKS

If you like rare and unusual books, patronize one of the *bouquinistes,* the owners of those army-green stalls that line the Seine. This is where tourists in the 1920s and 1930s went to buy "dirty" French postcards. You might get lucky and come across some treasured book, such as an original edition of Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer,* which was banned for decades in the United States.

Brentano's A block from the Opéra Garnier, Brentano's is a large English-language bookstore selling guides, maps, novels, and nonfiction as well as greeting cards, postcards, holiday items, and gifts. Open Monday to Saturday 10am to 7:30pm; Sunday 1 to 7pm. 37 av. de l'Opéra, 2e. ✆ **01-42-61-52-50.** www.brentanos.fr. Métro: Opéra or Pyramides.

Shakespeare and Company ★ The most famous bookstore on the Left Bank is Shakespeare and Company, on rue de l'Odéon. Hemingway, Fitzgerald, and Stein were frequent patrons, as was Anaïs Nin, the diarist noted for her description of struggling American artists in 1930s Paris. Nin helped her companion, Henry Miller, publish *Tropic of Cancer,* a book so notorious in its day that returning Americans who tried to slip copies through Customs often had them confiscated as pornography. Long ago, the shop moved to rue de la Bûcherie, a musty old place where expatriates still swap books and literary gossip and foreign students work in exchange for modest lodgings. Check out the lending library upstairs. Open daily 11am to

Finds An Open-Air Canvas Gallery

The **Paris Art Market** (✆ **01-53-57-42-60**) is "the place to go" on a Sunday. At the foot of Montparnasse Tower, this market is like an open-air gallery and has done much to restore the reputation of Montparnasse (14e) as a *quartier* for artists. Some 100 artists participate, including painters, sculptors, photographers, and even jewelers. Head for the mall along the boulevard Edgar Quinet for the best work. Go anytime on Sunday between 9am and 7pm (Métro: Montparnasse).

midnight. 37 rue de la Bûcherie, 5e. ✆ **01-43-25-40-93.** www.shakespeareco.org. Métro: St-Michel.

W. H. Smith France This store provides books, magazines, and newspapers published in English (most titles are from Britain). You can get the *Times* of London, and the Sunday *New York Times* is available every Monday. There's a fine selection of maps and travel guides, plus a special children's section that includes comics. Open Monday to Saturday 9am to 7:30pm; Sunday 1 to 7:30pm. 248 rue de Rivoli, 1er. ✆ **01-44-77-88-99.** Métro: Concorde.

CERAMICS, CHINA & PORCELAIN

Limoges-Unic/Madronet Housed in two shops on the same street, this store is crammed with crystal of Daum, Baccarat, Lalique, Haviland, and Bernardaud. You'll also find other table items: glass and crystal, silver, whatever your heart desires. They'll ship your purchases, and English is widely spoken. Open Monday to Saturday 11am to 6pm. 34 and 58 rue de Paradis, 10e. ✆ **01-47-70-34-59.** Métro: Gare de l'Est.

Manufacture Nationale de Sèvres ★★★ Once endorsed and promoted by the mistresses of Louis XV, Sèvres today manufactures only 4,000 to 5,000 pieces of porcelain every year. Of these, many are reserved as replacements for government and historical entities. Located a short walk beyond the western edge of Paris' 16th arrondissement, in the suburb of Sèvres, it maintains a sales outlet for the porcelain manufactured inside. Open Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm. 2 place de la Manufacture, 92310 Sévres ✆ **01-46-29-22-00.** Métro: Pont-de-Sèvres. More centrally located is the organization's sales outlet near the Louvre, at Place André Malraux, 1er (✆ **01-47-03-40-20**) Métro: Palais-Royal. Open Monday to Friday 10am to 6pm; Saturday 10am-5pm.

CHILDREN: FASHION & TOYS

Au Nain Bleu ✪ This is the largest, oldest, and most centrally located toy store in Paris. More important, it's probably the fanciest toy store in the world. But don't panic—in addition to the expensive stuff, you'll find rows of cheaper items on the first floor. Open Monday 2 to 7pm; Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 7pm. 408 rue St-Honoré, 8e. ✆ **01-42-65-20-00.** www.aunainbleu.com. Métro: Concorde or Madeleine.

Bonpoint This outlet is part of a chain that helps parents transform their darlings into models of well-tailored conspicuous consumption. Though you'll find some garments for real life, the primary allure of the place lies in its tailored, traditional—and expensive—garments by the "Coco Chanel of the children's garment industry," Marie-France Cohen. The shop sells clothes for boys and girls from newborn to age 16. Open Monday to Saturday 10am to 6pm. 15 rue Royale, 8e. ✆ **01-47-42-52-63.** Métro: Concorde.

CRYSTAL

Baccarat ✪✪✪ Opened in 1764, Baccarat is one of Europe's leading purveyors of full-lead crystal. You won't be able to comparison-shop Baccarat crystal at its four branches—a central organization sets rigid prices. The most prestigious outlet is on place de la Madeleine, but the outlet at 11 place des Etats-Unis, 16e, is larger and contains the **Musée Baccarat.** A third branch at rue de la Paix sells only women's jewelry, in which real gemstones (usually colored stones such as rubies and sapphires) are sometimes interspersed with cut crystal for that flashy "is it real or is it fake?" look. A fourth branch is in the Hotel Concorde La Fayette at the Palais des Congrès–Côté Ternes, at place du Général Koenig. Branches are open Tuesday to Friday 10am to 7pm; Monday and Saturday 10am to 7:30pm. 11 place de la Madeleine, 8e. ✆ **01-42-65-36-26.** www.baccarat.fr. Métro: Madeleine. Also: 11 place des Etats-Unis, 16e. ✆ **01-40-22-11-22.** Métro: Boissière.

Lalique ✪✪ Lalique is known for its smoky frosted-glass sculpture, Art Deco crystal, and unique perfume bottles. The shop sells a wide range of merchandise, including leather belts with Lalique buckles and silk scarves, designed to compete directly with those sold by Hermès. Open Monday to Wednesday 10am to 6:30pm; Thursday to Friday 9:30am to 6:30pm; Saturday 9:30am to 7pm. 11 rue Royale, 8e. ✆ **01-53-05-12-12.** www.cristallalique.fr. Métro: Concorde.

DEPARTMENT STORES

Au Bon Marché For about 20 years, this store has worked hard to position itself in the luxury market, selling fashion for men, women, and children; furniture; upscale gifts; and housewares. Some visitors compare it with Bloomingdale's. This is the oldest department store in Paris, dating from 1852. Of course, it can't compete with the *grand magasins* (department stores) such as Galeries Lafayette, except in one category: Au Bon Marché has a superior rug department, which it has fine-tuned as its specialty since 1871. It also has one of the largest food halls in Paris. Open Monday to Wednesday and Friday 9:30am to 7pm; Thursday 10am to 9pm; Saturday 9:30am to 8pm. 22–24 rue de Sèvres, 7e. ✆ **01-44-39-80-00.** www.lebonmarche.fr. Métro: Sèvres-Babylone.

Au Printemps ★★ Take a look at the facade of this store for a reminder of the Gilded Age. Inside, the merchandise is divided into housewares **(Printemps Maison),** women's fashion **(Printemps de la Mode),** and men's clothes **(Le Printemps de l'Homme).** This is better for women's and children's fashions than is Galeries Lafayette. As for the top names in perfume, it's in a dead heat with Galeries Lafayette. Au Printemps's customer service is dazzling, putting all major department stores in Paris to shame. Check out the magnificent stained-glass dome, through which turquoise light cascades into the sixth-floor **Café Flo,** where you can have a coffee or a full meal. Interpreters at the Welcome Service in Printemps de la Mode will help you find what you're looking for, claim your VAT refund, and so on. Au Printemps also has a tourist discount card, offering a flat 10% discount. Open Monday to Wednesday and Friday to Saturday 9:35am to 7pm; Thursday 9:35am to 9pm. 64 bd. Haussmann, 9e. ✆ **01-42-82-50-00.** www.printemps.com. Métro: Havre-Caumartin. RER: Auber or Haussmann–St-Lazare.

Galeries Lafayette ★★★ Opened in 1896, with a lobby capped by an early 1900s stained-glass cupola classified as a historic monument, Galeries Lafayette is Europe's largest department store. If you have time for only one department store, make it this one. This store could provision a small city with everything from perfume to fashion. It is even more user-friendly than Au Printemps, and in fashion it places more emphasis on upcoming designers. It also concentrates on an upscale roster of everything you need to furnish and maintain a home; thousands of racks of clothing for men, women, and children; and a staggering array of cosmetics, makeup products, and perfumes. Menswear is concentrated in a section called **Galfa;** also in

the complex is **Lafayette Gourmet,** one of the fanciest grocery stores in Paris, selling culinary exotica at prices usually lower than those at Fauchon; **Lafayette Sports; Galeries Lafayette Mariage** (for wedding accessories); and two other general-merchandise stores, both known simply as **"GL."** At the street-level **Welcome Desk,** a multilingual staff will tell you where to find various items in the store, where to get a taxi back to your hotel, and so on. Open Monday to Wednesday and Friday to Saturday 9:30am to 6:45pm; Thursday 9:30am to 9pm. 40 bd. Haussmann, 9e. ✆ **01-42-82-34-56.** Métro: Chaussée d'Antin. RER: Auber.

FASHION

CUTTING-EDGE CHIC

BCBG/Max Azria You'll quickly get the sense that someone spent hours meticulously selecting the women's clothing and accessories featured on three floors of this stylish boutique where everything is "BCBG" (*bon chic, bon genre*—a designation for things chic, restrained, and tasteful). Things here are, indeed "BCBG," but in brighter colors than you might expect. The place stocks European sizes 34 to 44, which translate roughly to U.S.-derived sizes 0 to 12. It's open Monday to Saturday 10am to 7:30pm. 412 rue St-Honoré, 8e. ✆ **01-53-00-75-75.** www.bcbg.com. Métro: Concorde or Madeleine.

Courrèges The house of Courrèges, founded in 1961, now maintains only one retail outlet in all of France: a sprawling, futuristic-looking showcase where the combined fashion statements of more than 40 years of fashion design are assembled into one blockbuster venue. The designs, once associated with moonwalks and the expanding space-age programs, are back and hot again. Even those white vinyl go-go boots and disco purses in silver metallic cloth are back in style, with special emphasis on neon tones of red and white, plastic, and a sense of whimsy and fun. Open Monday to Saturday 10am to 7pm. 40 rue François Premier, 8e. ✆ **01-53-67-30-00.** www.courreges.com. Métro: Alma-Marceau.

DESIGNER BOUTIQUES & FASHION FLAGSHIPS

There are two primary fields of dreams in Paris when it comes to showcasing the international big names: rue du Faubourg St-Honoré and avenue Montaigne. Though the Left Bank is gaining in status, with such recent additions as Dior, Armani, and Vuitton, the heart of the international designer parade is on the Right Bank.

Rue du Faubourg St-Honoré is so famous and fancy, it's simply known as "the Faubourg." It was the traditional miracle mile until

recent years, when the really exclusive shops shunned it for the wider and even more deluxe avenue Montaigne at the other end of the arrondissement. (It's a long but pleasant walk from one fashion strip to the other.) **Avenue Montaigne** is filled with fancy shops, but a few of them have affordable cafes (try Joseph at no. 14), and all have sales help who are usually cordial to well-dressed customers.

The mix is quite international—from British **(Joseph)** to German **(Jil Sander)** to Italian **(Krizia). Chanel, Lacroix, Porthault, Ricci, Dior,** and **Ungaro** are a few of the big French names. Also check out some of the lesser-known creative powers, and don't miss a visit to **Caron.** Most of the designer shops sell men's and women's clothing. The Faubourg hosts other traditional favorites: **Hermès, Lanvin, Jaeger, Rykiel,** and the upstart **Façonnable,** which sells preppy men's clothing in the United States through a business deal with Nordstrom. Lanvin has its own men's shop **(Lanvin Homme),** with a cafe perfect for a light (and affordable) lunch.

Alain Figaret Alain Figaret is one of France's foremost designers of men's shirts and women's blouses. Though this store has a broad range of fabrics, 100% cotton is its specialty. Also, check out the silk neckties in distinctive prints and the silk scarves for women. Open Monday to Saturday 10am to 7:30pm. 21 rue de la Paix, 2e. ✆ **01-42-65-04-99.** www.alain-figaret.fr. Métro: Opéra.

Chanel ★ If you can't have the sun, the moon, and the stars, at least buy something with Coco Chanel's initials on it—either a serious fashion statement (drop-dead chic) or something fun and playful (tongue-in-chic). Karl Lagerfeld's designs come in all flavors and have added a subtle twist to Chanel's classicism. Check out the beautiful staircase of the *maison* before you shop the two-floor boutique—it's well worth a peek. Open Monday to Saturday 10am to 7pm. 29 rue Cambon, 1er. ✆ **01-42-86-28-00.** www.chanel.fr. Métro: Concorde or Tuileries.

Christian Dior This fashion house is set up like a small department store, selling men's, women's, and children's clothing, as well as affordable gift items, makeup, and perfume on the street level. For several years, cutting-edge Brit designer John Galliano has been in charge of the collections. Open Monday to Saturday 10am to 7pm. 30 av. Montaigne, 8e. ✆ **01-40-73-73-73.** www.dior.fr. Métro: Franklin-D-Roosevelt.

Givenchy ★ Hubert de Givenchy made fashion news around the world with his establishment, in 1962, of the company that continues its lonely role as a *couturier* (custom-made clothier) for elegant women. Today, the art form of custom-made women's clothing

continues, a tradition that has died out except for just a handful of other practitioners. Be forewarned that if you're interested in custom-made clothing, advance appointments are necessary, and prices are stratospheric. But on the street level of the same premises, you'll find the flagship of the Givenchy empire, specializing in women's ready-to-wear. Just across the street, you'll find the official outlet for Givenchy's women's accessories, including purses and bags, scarves, shoes, and whatever it takes to keep a stylish woman-of-a-certain-age looking fabulous. A short walk away is **Givenchy Hommes,** where upscale, ready-to-wear clothing is inventoried for men. Both outlets maintain the same hours: Monday to Saturday 10am to 7pm. 8 av. George V, 8e. ✆ **01-44-31-50-00.** www.givenchy.fr. Métro: George V. Givenchy Hommes: 56 rue François Premier, 8e. ✆ **01-40-76-07-27.** Métro: Alma-Marceau.

Hermès ★★ France's single most important status item is a scarf or tie from Hermès. Patterns on these illustrious scarves, retailing for about 240€ ($348), have recently included the galaxies, Africa, the sea, the sun, and horse racing and breeding. But the choices don't stop there—this large flagship store has beach towels and accessories, dinner plates, clothing for men and women, and a large collection of Hermès fragrances. Ask to see the private museum upstairs. Outside, note the horseman on the roof with his scarf-flag flying. Open Monday to Saturday 10:30am to 6:30pm. 24 rue du Faubourg St-Honoré, 8e. ✆ **01-40-17-46-00.** www.hermes.com. Métro: Concorde.

Louis Vuitton ★ Its luggage is among the most famous and prestigious in the world, a standard accessory aboard the first-class cabins of aircrafts. Vuitton has branched into leather goods, writing instruments, travel products, and publishing. Look for the traditional collection of leather, including Vuitton's monogrammed brown-on-brown bags in printed canvas, on the street level. The mezzanine showcases upscale pens, writing supplies, and stationery. The top floor carries the company's newest line: women's shoes and bags. Open Monday to Saturday 10am to 7pm. 6 place St-Germain-des-Prés, 6e. ✆ **01-45-49-62-32.** Métro: St-Germain-des-Prés.

DISCOUNT & RESALE

Anna Lowe ★ *Value* Adjacent to the Bristol Hotel, one of the most expensive addresses in Paris, is one of the city's premier boutiques for women who want to purchase heavily discounted clothing (new, with labels intact) from some of the world's best-known fashion designers. Expect discounts of up to 50% on last year's collections from such artists as Valentino, Thierry Mugler, John Galliano, Chanel, Versace, and many more. Prices are reasonable, and the labels, in many cases,

Food Markets

Outdoor markets are plentiful in Paris. Some of the better known are the **Marché Buci;** the **rue Mouffetard market,** open Tuesday to Sunday from 9:30am to 1pm; Tuesday to Saturday from 4 to 7pm (6e; Métro: Monge or Censier-Daubenton); and the **rue Montorgueil market,** behind the St-Eustache church, open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 7pm (1er; Métro: Les Halles). The trendiest market is **Marché Biologique,** along boulevard Raspail, a tree-lined stretch lying between rue de Rennes and rue du Cherche-Midi, 6e. It's open Sunday from 8:30am to 6:30pm (Métro: Montparnasse).

still retain their old magic and sense of chic. Open Monday to Saturday 10am to 7pm. 104 rue du Faubourg St-Honoré, 8e. ✆ **01-42-66-11-32.** www.annalowe.com. Métro: Miromesnil.

Annexe des Créateurs ★★ *Value* Few stores in Paris receive as much publicity as this high-end, ultraglamorous discount outlet, where the collections of top-drawer designers are discounted by 30% to 70%. Charming owner and founder Edwige Meister inventories the only slightly worn but out-of-date women's wear of Stella McCartney, Versace, Moschino, Gaultier, Vivienne Westwood, and others. Open Tuesday to Saturday 11am to 7pm. 19 rue Godot de Mauroy, 9e. ✆ **01-42-65-46-40.** www.annexedescreateurs.com. Métro: Madeleine.

Défilé des Marques French TV stars often shop here, picking up Saint Laurent, Dior, Lacroix, Prada, Chanel, Versace, Hermès, and others at a fraction of the price. Yes, it sells discounted Hermès scarves as well. Low prices here derive from the owners' skill at picking up used clothing from last year's collections in good condition. Open Tuesday to Saturday 11am to 8pm. 171 rue de Grenelles, 7e. ✆ **01-45-55-63-47.** Métro: Latour-Maubourg.

FOOD: CHOCOLATE, PASTRIES & MORE

Christian Constant ★★ Opened in 1970, Christian Constant sells some of Paris's most delectable chocolates by the kilo. Each is a blend of ingredients from Ecuador, Colombia, or Venezuela, usually mingled with scents of spices and flowers such as orange blossoms, jasmine, the Asian blossom ylang-ylang, and vetiver and *verveine* (herbs usually used to brew tea). Open Monday to Friday 8:30am to

9pm; Saturday to Sunday 8am to 8:30pm. 37 rue d'Assas, 6e. ✆ **01-53-63-15-15.** Métro: St-Placide.

Fauchon ★★★ At place de la Madeleine stands one of the city's most popular sights—not the church, but Fauchon, a hyper-upscale mega-delicatessen that thrives within a city famous for its finicky eaters. It's divided into three divisions that include an *épicerie* (for jams, crackers, pastas, and exotic canned goods); a *pâtissier* (for breads, pastries, and chocolates); and a *traiteur* (for cheeses, terrines, pâtés, caviar, and fruits). Prices are steep, but the inventories are fascinating. Fauchon also has a restaurant, **Brasserie Fauchon,** and a tea salon, which showcases the pastry-making talents of its chefs. Open Monday to Saturday 9:30am to 7pm. 26 place de la Madeleine, 8e. ✆ **01-70-39-38-00.** www.fauchon.com. Métro: Madeleine.

Poilâne ★★ One of Paris's best-loved bakeries, Poilâne hasn't changed much since it opened in 1932. Come here to taste and admire the beautiful loaves of bread decorated with simple designs of leaves and flowers that'll make you yearn for an all-but-vanished Paris. Specialties include apple tarts, butter cookies, and a chewy sourdough loaf cooked in a wood-burning oven. ***Note:*** Cherche-Midi location open Monday to Saturday 7:15am to 8:15pm; Grenelle location Tuesday to Sunday 7:15am to 8:15pm. 8 rue du Cherche-Midi, 6e. ✆ **01-45-48-42-59.** www.poilane.fr. Métro: St-Sulpice. Also: 49 bd. de Grenelle, 15e. ✆ **01-45-79-11-49.** Métro: Dupleix.

JEWELRY

Bijoux Blues ★ *Finds* This Marais boutique offers unique jewelry handmade in Paris with a variety of different materials, including Austrian and bohemian crystals, natural and semi-precious stones, pearls, coral, and mother-of-pearl. Custom requests are welcomed for individually designed pieces. The store offers jewelry at what the staff calls "atelier prices." Open Tuesday to Friday 2 to 8pm; Saturday and Sunday noon to 8pm. 30 rue St-Paul, 4e. ✆ **01-48-04-00-64.** Métro: St. Paul.

Bijoux Burma If you can't afford any of the spectacular and expensive bijoux at the city's world-famous jewelers, come here to console yourself with some of the best fakes anywhere. Open Monday to Saturday 10:30am to 6:45pm. 50 rue François-Premier, 8e. ✆ **01-42-23-70-92.** Métro: Franklin-D-Roosevelt.

KITCHENWARE

Dehillerin Established in 1820, Dehillerin is Paris's most famous cookware shop, in the "kitchen corridor" alongside A. Simon and

several other kitchenware stores. Equipped with the right tools from Dehillerin, you, too, can learn to cook like a master chef. Open Monday 9am to 12:30pm and 2 to 6pm; Tuesday to Saturday 9am to 6pm. 18 rue Coquillière, 1er. ✆ **01-42-36-53-13.** www.e-dehillerin.fr. Métro: Les Halles.

MALLS

Carrousel du Louvre If you want to combine an accessible location, a fun food court, boutiques, and plenty of museum gift shops with a touch of culture, don't miss the Carrousel. Always mobbed, this is one of the few venues allowed to open on Sunday. There's a Virgin Megastore, a branch of The Body Shop, and several other emporiums for conspicuous consumption. Check out Diane Claire for the fanciest souvenirs you've ever seen. Open Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 8pm. 99 rue de Rivoli, 1er. ✆ **01-43-16-47-10.** Métro: Palais-Royal or Musée du Louvre.

Les Trois Quartiers This is a mall of at least 13 upscale boutiques specializing in clothing, perfume, cosmetics, and household accessories. The largest is Madelios, a menswear store that stocks more than 50 brand names, including Ralph Lauren, Hugo Boss, and Burberry. Open Monday to Saturday 10am to 7pm. 21 bd. de la Madeleine, 1er. ✆ **01-42-97-80-12.** Métro: Madeleine.

MARKETS

Marché aux Fleurs Artists and photographers love to capture the Flower Market on canvas or film. The stalls are ablaze with color, and each is a showcase of flowers, most of which escaped the perfume factories of Grasse on the French Riviera. The Flower Market is along the Seine, behind the Tribunal de Commerce. On Sunday, it becomes the **Marché aux Oiseaux (Bird Market).** Open daily 8:30am to 4pm. Place Louis-Lépine, Ile de la Cité, 4e. No phone. Métro: Cité.

Marché aux Puces de la Porte de Vanves This weekend event sprawls along two streets and is the best flea market in Paris—dealers swear by it. There's little in terms of formal antiques and furniture. It's better for old linens, used Hermès scarves, toys, costume jewelry, perfume bottles, and bad art. Asking prices tend to be high, as dealers prefer to sell to nontourists. On Sunday, there's a food market one street over. Open Saturday to Monday 6:30am to 4:30pm. Av. Georges-Lafenestre, 14e. No phone. Métro: Porte de Vanves.

Marché aux Puces St-Ouen de Clignancourt ★ Paris's most famous flea market is a grouping of more than a dozen flea markets—a complex of 2,500 to 3,000 open stalls and shops on the northern fringe of the city, selling everything from antiques to junk, from new

to vintage clothing. The market begins with stalls of cheap clothing along avenue de la Porte de Clignancourt. As you proceed, various streets will tempt you. Hold on until you get to rue des Rosiers; then turn left. Vendors start bringing out their offerings around 9am Saturday to Monday and take them in around 6pm. Monday is traditionally the best day for bargain seekers—attendance is smaller and merchants demonstrate a greater desire to sell. ***Note:*** Beware of pickpockets and teenage troublemakers while shopping. Open Saturday to Monday 9am to 7pm. Av. de la Porte de Clignancourt, 18e. No phone. www.marchesauxpuces.fr. Métro: Porte de Clignancourt (turn left, cross bd. Ney, and then walk north on av. de la Porte Montmartre). Bus: 56, 85, 155, or 166.

MUSIC

FNAC This is a large chain of music and book stores known for their wide selection and discounted prices. Eight branches are in Paris, with the largest being at 136 rue de Rennes, Montparnasse. Other locations include rue St-Lazare, avenue des Champs-Elysées, Forum des Halles, avenue des Ternes, and avenue d'Italie. All are open Monday to Saturday 10am to 7:30pm except Champs-Elysées, which is open daily noon to midnight. 136 rue de Rennes, 6e. ✆ **08-25-02-00-20.** www.fnac.com. Métro: St-Placide.

PERFUME (DISCOUNT)

Catherine *Finds* This family owned shop sells an impressive stock of all the big-name perfumes and cosmetics at discounts of 20% to 25%. In addition, its paperwork is usually extremely well organized, allowing refunds of the value-added tax (VAT) to be cleared quickly through Customs. Many of the staff speak English. Open Tuesday to Saturday 9am to 7pm; Monday 10:30am to 7pm. 7 rue Castiglione, 1er. ✆ **01-42-61-02-89.** Métro: Concorde.

The Different Company ★ *Finds* Many fashionistas are heading for this corner of counterculture chic on a hot new shopping street that's midway between place de la Bastille and the Hotel de Ville. Scents which include *"Osmanthus," "Sel de Vétiver,"* and *"Rose Poivrée,"* have been called "fragrances for the 21st century." Tuesday to Saturday noon to between 7:30 and 8pm. 10 av. Ferdinand Duval, 4e. ✆ **01-41-19-41-45.** Métro: Saint-Paul.

Editions de Parfums Fréderic Malle ★ *Finds* This is the only outlet of an organization founded in 2000 by master perfumer Fréderic Malle. Each of the scents sold here comes in a standardized bottle in either a 50ml size or a 100ml size. Open Monday 1 to 7pm;

Tuesday to Saturday 11am to 7pm. 37 rue de Grenelle, 7e. ✆ **01-45-05-39-02.** www.editionsdeparfums.com. Métro: Rue du Bac.

SOUVENIRS & GIFTS

La Tuile à Loup This emporium has been selling authentic examples of all-French handcrafts since around 1975, making a name through its concentration of hand-produced woven baskets, cutlery, and woodcarvings. Especially appealing are the hand-painted crockery and charming stoneware from such traditional manufacturers as Quimper and Malicorne and from small-scale producers in the Savoie Alps and Alsace. Open Monday 1 to 7pm; Tuesday to Saturday 10:30am to 7pm. 35 rue Daubenton, 5e. ✆ **01-47-07-28-90.** www.latuilealoup.com. Métro: Censier-Daubenton.

STATIONERY

Cassegrain ★ Nothing says elegance more than thick French stationery and note cards. Cassegrain, originally an engraver in 1919, offers beautifully engraved stationery, most often in traditional patterns, and business cards engraved to order. Open Monday to Saturday 10am to 7pm. 422 rue St-Honoré, 8e. ✆ **01-42-60-20-08.** www.cassegrain.fr. Métro: Concorde.

TABLEWARE

Geneviève Lethu This Provençal designer has shops all over France, with 19 others in and around Paris, all selling her Pottery Barn–meets–French Mediterranean tableware. The newer designs stress influences from India, South America, and Africa as well. Energy, style, and verve are rampant, and the prices are moderate. Open Monday to Saturday 10:15am to 7pm. 95 rue de Rennes, 6e. ✆ **01-45-44-40-35.** www.genevievelethu.com. Métro: St-Sulpice.

WINES

Lavinia ★ This is the largest wine-and-spirits store in Europe, opening in 2002 to great acclaim in Paris. Spread over three floors near place de la Madeleine, it stocks more than 3,000 brands of French wine and spirits, along with more than 2,000 brands from other parts of the world. A simple lunch-only restaurant is on-site, as well as a tasting bar. Open Monday to Friday 10am to 8pm; Saturday 9am to 8pm. 3–5 bd. de la Madeleine, 1er. ✆ **08-26-10-11-20.** www.lavinia.fr. Métro: Madeleine.

6 Paris After Dark

When darkness falls, the City of Light lives up to its name—the monuments and bridges are illuminated, and the glow of old-fashioned and modern street lamps, the blaze of sidewalk-cafe windows, and the glare of neon signs flood the avenues and boulevards. Parisians start the serious part of their evenings as Anglos stretch, yawn, and announce it's time for bed. After the workday is over, most people go to a cafe to meet with friends over a drink and perhaps a meal; then, they may head home or proceed to a restaurant or the theater; and much later, they may show up at a bar or a dance club.

In this chapter, we describe Paris's after-dark diversions—from attending a Molière play at the Comédie-Française to catching a can-can show at the Moulin Rouge to sipping a Sidecar at Harry's New York Bar to partying at Le Queen with all the boys.

1 The Performing Arts

LISTINGS Announcements of shows, concerts, and operas are plastered on kiosks all over town. You'll find listings in the weekly ***Pariscope,*** an entertainment guide with a section in English, or the English-language bimonthly ***Boulevard.*** Performances start later in Paris than in London or New York—from 8 to 9pm—and Parisians tend to dine after the theater. You may not want to do the same, because many of the less-expensive restaurants close as early as 9pm.

TICKETS Paris has many ticket agencies, most near the Right Bank hotels. *Avoid them if possible.* You can buy the cheapest tickets at the box office of the theater or at discount agencies that sell tickets at discounts of up to 50%. One is the **Kiosque Théâtre,** 15 place de la Madeleine, 8e (no phone; www.kiosquetheatre.com; Métro: Madeleine), offering leftover tickets for about half-price on the day of performance. Tickets for evening performances are sold Tuesday to Saturday from 12:30 to 8pm. For matinees, tickets are sold Saturday from 12:30 to 2pm and Sunday from 12:30 to 4pm. Other branches are in the basement of the Châtelet–Les Halles Métro station and in front of Gare Montparnasse.

Students with ID can often get last-minute tickets by applying at the box office an hour before curtain time.

The easiest (and most expensive) way to get tickets, especially if you're staying in a first-class or deluxe hotel, is to ask your concierge to arrange for them. A service fee is added, but it's a lot easier if you don't want to waste precious hours in Paris trying to secure often hard-to-get tickets.

Tickets for festivals, concerts, and the theater are easy to obtain through one of these locations of the **FNAC** record store chain: 136 rue de Rennes, 6e (✆ **08-25-02-08-02;** Métro: St. Placide); or 1–7 rue Pierre-Lescot, in the Forum des Halles, 1er. (✆ **01-40-41-40-00;** Métro: Châtelet–Les Halles).

For information and tickets to just about any show in Paris (also Dijon, Lyon, and Nice), **Keith Prowse** has a New York office if you'd like to make arrangements before you go. It's at 234 W. 44th St., Suite 1000, New York, NY 10036 (✆ **800/669-8687;** www.keithprowse.com). The Paris office is at 7 rue de Clichy, 9e (✆ **01-42-81-88-98;** Métro: Place de Clichy). They will mail tickets to your home, fax confirmation, or leave tickets at the box office in Paris. There's a markup of 20% (excluding opera and ballet) over box-office price, plus a U.S. handling charge of $8. Hotel and theater packages are also available.

THEATER

Comédie-Française ★★ Those with even a modest understanding of French can delight in a sparkling production of Molière at this national theater, established to keep the classics alive and promote important contemporary authors. Nowhere else will you see the works of Molière and Racine so beautifully staged. The box office is open daily from 11am to 6pm, but the hall is dark from mid-July to early September. In 1993 a Left Bank annex was launched, the **Comédie Française-Théâtre du Vieux-Colombier,** 21 rue du Vieux-Colombier, 4e (✆ **01-44-39-87-00**). Discounts are available if you reserve in advance. 2 rue de Richelieu, 1er. ✆ **08-25-10-16-80.** www.comedie-francaise.fr. Tickets 28€ ($41) adults, 15€ ($22) 26 and younger. Métro: Palais-Royal or Musée du Louvre.

OPERA, DANCE & CLASSICAL CONCERTS

Cité de la Musique ★★★ This testimony to the power of music has been the most widely applauded, the least criticized, and the most innovative of the late François Mitterrand's *grands projets.* At the city's northeastern edge in what used to be a run-down and

White Nights *(Nuit Blanche)* in Paris

Beginning in Paris in 2002, *Nuit Blanche,* a frenetic all-night multi-venue cultural bash, was launched. Since then, the concept has swept such European capitals as Madrid and Rome. Dates for this event vary from year to year; perhaps it'll be October in 2009. Check its website for late-changing information: www.nuitblanche.paris.fr.

What to expect: the offerings seem endless, everything from street entertainers such as circus acts to jazz jam sessions. Of course, there are modern art shows, theatrical presentations, and music of every genre, even old-fashioned French ballads. "Nuit Blanche is the greatest party ever thrown in the streets of Paris," said Pierre Monosiet. "We dance the night away until dawn's early light."

White night events are free and take place, often spontaneously, throughout Paris—not just in the historic core. As many as two million people might take to the streets in the next White Night extravaganza. Many museums and art galleries will remain open around the clock.

There might even be all-night dancing in one of the giant terminals of a Paris rail station. The axis of events will follow the course of the no. 14 Métro (subway) line from the Batignolles sector in northwest Paris, cutting through the heart of the city to the fringes of Les Olympiades in the southwest.

depressing neighborhood, this $120-million stone-and-glass structure incorporates a network of concert halls, a library and research center for the study of all kinds of music, and a museum. The complex hosts a rich variety of concerts, ranging from Renaissance music through 19th- and 20th-century works, including jazz. 221 av. Jean-Jaurès, 19e. ✆ **01-44-84-45-00,** or 01-44-84-44-84 for tickets. www.cite-musique.fr. Tickets 18€–40€ ($26–$58) for 4:30 and 8pm concerts. Métro: Porte de Pantin.

Opéra Bastille ★★★ This controversial building—it has been called a "beached whale"—was designed by Canadian architect Carlos Ott, with curtains by Japanese designer Issey Miyake. Since the house's grand opening in July 1989, the Opéra National de Paris has presented works such as Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* and Tchaikovsky's *Queen of Spades.* The main hall is the largest of any French opera house, with 2,700 seats, but music critics have lambasted the acoustics. The building contains two other concert halls, including an intimate 250-seat room that usually hosts chamber

music. Both traditional opera performances and symphony concerts are presented here, as well as both classical and modern dance. Several concerts are given for free in honor of certain French holidays. Write ahead for tickets. 2 place de la Bastille, 4e. ✆ **08-92-89-90-90** or 01-40-01-17-89. Tickets 8€–175€ ($12–$254) opera, 12€–80€ ($17–$116) dance. Métro: Bastille.

Opéra Garnier ★★★ Once the haunt of the Phantom, this is the premier venue for dance and once again for opera. Charles Garnier designed this 1875 rococo wonder during the heyday of the French Empire; the facade is adorned with marble and sculpture, including *The Dance* by Carpeaux. Following a year-long renovation, during which the Chagall ceiling was cleaned and air-conditioning was added, the facade gleams as it did for Napoleon III. You can see the original gilded busts and statues, the rainbow-hued marble pillars, and the mosaics. The Opéra Garnier combines ballet and opera, and provides one of the most elegant evenings you can spend in the City of Light. The box office is open Monday to Saturday from 11am to 6:30pm. Place de l'Opéra, 9e. ✆ **08-92-89-90-90** or 01-40-01-18-50. Tickets 6€–160€ ($8.70–$232) opera, 12€–80€ ($17–$116) dance. Métro: Opéra.

2 The Club & Music Scene

Paris is still a late-night mecca, and both the quantity and variety of nightlife exceed that of other cities. Nowhere else will you find such a huge, mixed array of nightclubs, bars, dance clubs, cabarets, jazz dives, music halls, and honky-tonks.

A MUSIC HALL

Olympia Charles Aznavour and other big names appear in this cavernous hall. The late Yves Montand performed once, and the show was sold out 4 months in advance. Today, you're more likely to catch Gloria Estefan. A typical lineup might include an English rock group, Italian acrobats, a French singer, a dance troupe, juggling American comedians (doing much of their work in English), and the featured star. Performances usually begin at 8:30pm Tuesday to Saturday, with Sunday matinees at 5pm. 28 bd. des Capucines, 9e. ✆ **01-55-27-10-00** or 08-92-68-33-68. www.olympiahall.com. Tickets 22€–75€ ($32–$109). Métro: Opéra or Madeleine.

NIGHTCLUBS & CABARETS

Decidedly expensive, these places give you your money's worth by providing lavishly spectacular floor shows. They generally attract an older crowd and are definitely not youth-oriented.

Chez Michou Cross-dressing belles bear names such as Hortensia and DuDuche; they lip-sync in costumes from haute couture to haute concierge, paying tribute to such Americans as Whitney Houston and Tina Turner and to French stars such as Mireille Mathieu, Sylvie Vartan, and Brigitte Bardot. If you don't want dinner, you'll have to stand at the bar, paying a compulsory 35€ ($51) for the first drink. Dinner is served nightly at 8:30pm (reservations required); shows begin nightly at 11pm. 80 rue des Martyrs, 18e. ✆ **01-46-06-16-04.** www.michou.fr. Cover (including dinner, aperitif, wine, coffee, and show) 105€ ($152). Métro: Pigalle.

Crazy Horse Saloon Since 1951, this sophisticated strip joint has thrived, thanks to good choreography and a sly, coquettish celebration of the female form. The theme binding each of the 5-minute numbers (featuring gorgeous dancers in erotic costumes) is La Femme in her various states: temperamental, sad, dancing/bouncy, or joyful. Dance numbers that endure season after season include "Le Laser" and "The Erotic Lesson." Dinner is served at Chez Francis, a restaurant under separate management a few steps away. Shows last less than 2 hours. Shows Sunday to Friday 8:30 and 11pm; Saturday at 7:30, 9:45, and 11:50pm. 12 av. George V, 8e. ✆ **01-47-23-32-32.** www.lecrazyhorseparis.com. Reservations recommended. Cover (includes 2 drinks) 65€ ($94) for seat at the bar, 100€–130€ ($145–$189) for table (dinner spectacle). Métro: George V or Alma Marceau.

Folies-Bergère The Folies-Bergère has been an institution since 1869. Josephine Baker, the African-American singer who danced in a banana skirt and threw bananas into the audience, became "the toast of Paris" here. According to legend, the first GI to reach Paris at the 1944 Liberation asked for directions to the club. Don't expect the naughty and slyly permissive, skin-and-glitter revue that used to be the trademark of this place. In 1993, that all ended with a radical restoration of the theater and a reopening under new management. Today, it's a conventional 1,600-seat theater devoted to a frequently changing roster of big-stage performances in French, many of which are adaptations of Broadway blockbusters. Recent examples have included restagings of *Fame* and *Saturday Night Fever*. An on-site restaurant serves dinners, but most spectators opt just for the show, and not the meal. Shows are usually given Tuesday to Saturday at 9pm and Sunday at 3pm. 34 rue Richer, 9e. ✆ **01-44-79-98-60** or 08-92-68-16-50. www.foliesbergere.com. Tickets 25€–84€ ($36–$122). Métro: Grands Boulevards or Cadet.

Le Paradis Latin Built in 1889 by Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel, with the same metallic skeleton as the famous tower, Le Paradis Latin represents the architect's only venture into theater design. The place is credited with introducing vaudeville and musical theater to Paris. In 1903 the building was a warehouse, but in the 1970s it was transformed into a successful cabaret. The show includes tasteful nudity (they contrast their more dignified nudity—breasts only—with the more blatant and unabashed nudity at Crazy Horse), a ventriloquist, and a trapeze artist. The master of ceremonies speaks in French and English. Dinner Wednesday to Monday 8pm; revues at 9:30pm. 28 rue Cardinal-Lemoine, 5e. ✆ **01-43-25-28-28.** www.paradis-latin.com. Cover 85€ ($123) including a glass of champagne; dinner and show 120€–170€ ($174–$247). Métro: Jussieu or Cardinal Lemoine.

Lido de Paris The Lido competes with the best Las Vegas has to offer. Its $15-million production, *C'est Magique,* reflects a dramatic reworking of the classic Parisian cabaret show, with eye-popping special effects, water technology using more than 60,000 gallons per minute, and even aerial and aquatic ballet. The show, the most expensive ever produced in Europe, uses 70 performers, $4 million in costumes, and a $2-million lighting design with lasers. There's even an ice rink and swimming pool that appears and disappears. The 45 topless Bluebell Girls, those legendary showgirls, are still here. 16 bis av. des Champs-Elysées, 8e. ✆ **800/227-4884** in the U.S., or 01-40-76-56-10. www.lido.fr. Dinner dance (7:30pm) and show (11:30pm) 140€–210€ ($203–$305); show only (9:30 and 11:30pm) 90€ ($131). Price includes half-bottle of champagne per person. Métro: George V.

Moulin Rouge This is a camp classic. The establishment that Toulouse-Lautrec immortalized is still here, but the artist would probably have a hard time recognizing it. Colette created a scandal here by offering an on-stage kiss to Mme de Morny, but shows today have a harder time shocking audiences. Try to get a table—the view is much better on the main floor than from the bar. What's the theme? It's strip routines and the saucy sexiness of *la Belle Epoque,* and of permissive Paris between the wars. Handsome men and girls, girls, girls, virtually all topless, keep the place going. Revues begin nightly at 9 and 11pm. 82 bd. Clichy, place Blanche, 18e. ✆ **01-53-09-82-82.** www.moulinrouge.fr. Cover including champagne 89€–99€ ($129–$144); 7pm dinner and show 140€–170€ ($203–$247). Métro: Blanche.

Nouveau Casino Some Paris-watchers consider this the epitome of the hyperhip countercultural scene that blossoms along the rue

Oberkampf every night. In a former movie theater adjacent to the Café Charbon, it's a large, drafty space centered on a dance floor and an enormous bar crafted to resemble an iceberg. Live concerts take place nightly between 8pm and 1am; on Friday and Saturday, the party continues from 1am till dawn, with a DJ who spins some of the most avant-garde dance music in Paris. 109 rue Oberkampf, 9e. ✆ **01-43-57-57-40.** www.nouveaucasino.net. Admission to concerts 12€–20€ ($17–$29); to disco 7€–20€ ($10–$29). Métro: St-Maur, Parmentier, or Ménilmontant.

JAZZ, SALSA, ROCK & MORE

The great jazz revival that long ago swept America is still going strong here, with Dixieland, Chicago, bop, and free-jazz rhythms being pounded out in dozens of jazz cellars, mostly called *caveaux.* Most clubs are between rue Bonaparte and rue St-Jacques on the Left Bank. The crowds that attend clubs to hear rock, salsa, and the like are definitely young, often in their late teens, 20s, or early 30s. But at jazz clubs, jazz-lovers span all ages.

Bus Palladium A single room with a very long bar, this rock-'n'-roll temple has varnished hardwoods and fabric-covered walls that barely absorb the reverberations of nonstop recorded music. You won't find techno, punk, jazz, blues, or soul here. It appeals to hard-core, mostly heterosexual, rock wannabes ages 25 to 35. Alcoholic drinks cost 5€ to 15€ ($7.25–$22); on Tuesdays, women drink free. It's open Tuesday to Saturday 11pm to 5am. 6 rue Fontaine, 9e. ✆ **01-42-85-00-70.** Cover 12€–20€ ($17–$29) for men, and Fri–Sat for women. Métro: Blanche or Pigalle.

Caveau de la Huchette ★ This celebrated jazz *caveau,* draws a young crowd, mostly students, who dance to the music of well-known jazz combos. In pre-jazz days, Robespierre and Marat frequented the place. It's open Sunday to Thursday 9:30pm to 2:30am; Friday to Saturday and holidays 9:30pm to 4am. 5 rue de la Huchette, 5e. ✆ **01-43-26-65-05.** www.caveaudelahuchette.fr. Cover 11€ ($16) Sun–Thurs, 13€ ($19) Fri–Sat; students 24 and younger 9€ ($13). Métro/RER: St-Michel.

Caveau des Oubliettes ★ It's hard to say which is more intriguing—the entertainment and drinking or the setting. An *oubliette* is a dungeon with a trap door at the top as its only opening, and the name is accurate. Located in the Latin Quarter, just across the river from Notre-Dame, this night spot is housed in a genuine 12th-century prison, complete with dungeons, spine-tingling passages, and

scattered skulls, where prisoners were tortured and sometimes pushed through portholes to drown in the Seine. The *caveau* is beneath the subterranean vaults that many centuries ago linked it with the fortress prison of Petit Châtelet. Today patrons laugh, drink, talk, and flirt in the narrow *caveau* or else retreat to the jazz lounge. There's a free jam session every night, perhaps Latin jazz or rock. At some point on Friday and Saturday nights concerts are staged (a cover is assessed at this time). Open daily 5pm to 2am. 52 rue Galande, 5e. ✆ **01-46-34-23-09.** Cover 12€ ($17) Fri–Sat. Métro: St-Michel.

La Chapelle des Lombards *Finds* The club's proximity to the Opéra Bastille seems incongruous, considering the African/Caribbean jazz and Brazilian samba that's the norm. It's a magnet for South American and African expatriates, and the rhythms and fire of the music propel everyone onto the dance floor. Open Tuesday to Sunday 11:30pm to 6am. June to August daily 11:30pm to 6am. 19 rue de Lappe, 11e. ✆ **01-43-57-24-24.** Cover 15€–19€ ($22–$28) including first drink. Women free Thurs before midnight. Métro: Bastille.

Le Gibus Attracting a pulsating under-30 crowd, this is one of the best-known rock clubs in Paris, patronized by both gays and straights. It opens every night late as a dance club, entertaining its diverse medley of counterculture Parisians and visitors. Depending on the week's schedule, visitors will be confronted with a rotating series of themes, ranging from "Club Trance" to "Party Up." There might be a live rock band or even a drag show presented as part of the evening's rhythms. Times designated as specifically gay vary, but at press time, the gay venue was usually on Sunday from midnight to 6am. Open Friday to Sunday midnight to between 3 and 6am, depending on business. 18 rue du Faubourg du Temple, 11e. ✆ **01-47-00-78-88.** Cover 15€ ($22). Métro: République.

Le Petit Journal Montparnasse This is one of the best jazz supper clubs in Paris. It's also a showcase for R&B, rock, and Latino music as well. Music lovers come here for a dinner and floor show, although you can also visit just for drinks and the music (a lot cheaper). Dinner guests are given preferred seating; other patrons usually sit at the bar. Some big names are often booked here. Open 8pm to 2am Monday to Saturday. 13 rue du Commandant Mouchotte, 14e. ✆ **01-43-21-56-70.** www.petitjournal-montparnasse.com. 3-course dinner and show 55€–85€ ($80–$123); cover (without dinner) 25€ ($36), including first drink. Métro: Gare Montparnasse.

Les Etoiles Since 1856, this old-fashioned music hall has shaken with the sound of performers at work and patrons at play. Its newest incarnation is as a restaurant discothèque where the music is exclusively salsa and the food is Cuban. Expect simple but hearty portions of fried fish, shredded pork or beef, rice, beans, and flan. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 9pm to 3am. 61 rue du Château d'Eau, 10e. ✆ **01-42-47-16-49.** Cover 22€ ($32; includes meal); for nondiners 12€ ($17; includes drink). Métro: Château d'Eau.

7 Lézards ★ Plan on making an evening at the "Seven Lizards." The night begins on the main level, which is a kind of tearoom/bar/restaurant. You can begin with a classic French onion soup and follow with such Provençal fare as lasagna niçoise with ratatouille. Main dishes begin at 14€ ($20). Later head downstairs for a jazz concert in the stone-built cellar. The restaurant is open daily from noon to midnight, and the cellar sees action daily 9pm to 2am. 10 rue de Rosiers, 4er. ✆ **01-48-87-08-95.** www.7lezards.com. Cover 10€–15€ ($15–$22). Métro: St. Paul.

Slow Club ★★ One of the most famous jazz cellars in Europe, with medieval ceiling vaults that make the music reverberate in an evocative way, this venue hosts a revolving set of artists who tend to focus on New Orleans–style jazz. Most of the hip folks who flock here are in their 30s and early 40s. The club schedules live music Thursday through Saturday; on Wednesday, it features recorded music, everything from swing to rock 'n' roll. Open Wednesday 10:30pm to 4am, Thursday to Saturday 11:30pm to 7am. 130 rue de Rivoli, 1er. ✆ **01-42-33-84-30.** Admission is free; 1 drink 12€ ($17). Métro: Châtelet, Louvres-Rivoli.

DANCE CLUBS

The following nightspots are among hundreds of places where people in their 20s or early 30s go to dance—distinct from others where the main attraction is the music. The area around the church of **St-Germain-des-Prés** is full of dance clubs, but they come and go so quickly that you could arrive to find a hardware store in the place of last year's white-hot club—but as with all things in nature, the new springs up to replace the old. Check ***Time Out: Paris*** or ***Pariscope*** to get a sense of current trends. Most of these clubs don't really get going until well after 10pm.

Batofar ★ Self-consciously proud of its status as a club that virtually everybody views as hip, Batofar sits on a converted barge that floats on the Seine, sometimes attracting hundreds of gyrating

dancers, most of whom are in their 20s and 30s. House, garage, techno, and live jazz by groups that hail from (among other places) Morocco, Senegal, and Germany sometimes add to the mix. Come here for an insight into late-night Paris at its most raffish and countercultural, and don't even try to categorize the patrons. Beer costs around 8.50€ ($12) a bottle. Open Tuesday to Saturday from 6pm to 3 or 4am, depending on business. Closed Nov to March. Facing 11 quai François Mauriac, 13e. ✆ **01-53-60-17-30.** www.batofar.org. Cover 12€–16€ ($17–$23). Métro: Quai de la Gare.

Cab ★★ If you've ever wanted to dance in a basement under the Louvre, it doesn't get much classier than this joint patronized by French models, Arab businessmen, and children of the rich. Dim lighting illuminates black leather furniture, and there are two bars with shiny black or glass surfaces. Music is house and electro, with various hip-hop songs and other American hits mixed in. We even heard Michael Jackson one night (remember him?). Open Tuesday to Sunday 11:30pm to 4:30am. Place du Palais Royal, 1er. ✆ **01-58-62-56-25.** Cover 20€ ($29), including 1 drink. Métro: Palais Royal-Musée du Louvre.

Favela Chic The hot sounds of Brazil permeate this nighttime party at this bar and restaurant that makes the best *mojitos* in town. Weekends are packed with an under-35 crowd. At times you'll think you've been transplanted to Rio de Janeiro. Bossa jazz and samba rap are also heard on some nights. A *favela,* incidentally, is a ghetto in Brazil. Open Tuesday to Saturday 9pm to 4am. 18 rue du Faubourg du Temple, 11e. ✆ **01-40-21-38-14.** www.favelachic.com. Cover 10€ ($15) Fri-Sat. Métro: République.

La Balajo Established in 1936, this dance club is where Edith Piaf won the hearts of Parisian music lovers. Today, it's easy to compare La Balajo with New York City's Roseland—an old-fashioned venue steeped in Big Band nostalgia, which sometimes manages to shake the dust out for special parties and events. Afternoon sessions focus on tangos, *paso dobles,* and waltzes, and are more staid than their late-night counterparts. Evenings attract a younger crowd (age 20–35-ish), who groove to a mixture, depending on the DJ, of house, garage, techno, and old-fashioned disco. Open Tuesday to Thursday 8pm to 4:30am; Friday and Saturday 10pm to 5:30am; and Sunday 3 to 7pm. 9 rue de Lappe, 11e. ✆ **01-47-00-07-87.** www.balajo.fr. Cover (includes 1 drink) 8€ ($12) for afternoon sessions, 16€–20€ ($23–$29) for night sessions. Métro: Bastille.

Le Baron ★ If there's such a thing as a speakeasy in the 21st century, this bastion of cool is it. Once it was the most expensive brothel in Paris, and much of its original decor remains, including the 1920s-era tile of frolicking nude ladies, the sexy red walls, and the tasseled lamps. Today, however, the Gucci crowd in thick shades turns up, an equal mix of both sexes, including some customers who haven't decided which sex to be. The dance floor is one of the most packed in Paris with some of the world's most beautiful people. Drinks are costly but so is being trendy. It's open daily 9pm to 2am, although hours can vary. 6 av. Marceau, 8e. ✆ **01-47-20-04-01.** Cover ranges from free to 15€ ($22) depending on the venue and the night of the week. Métro: Champs-Elysées.

Les Bains Douches The name, "The Baths," comes from this hot spot's former function as a Turkish bath that attracted gay clients, none more notable than Marcel Proust. It may be hard to get in if the doorman doesn't think you're trendy and *très chic*. Yes, that was Jennifer Lopez we saw whirling around the floor. Dancing begins at midnight, and a supper club–like restaurant is upstairs. Meals cost 32€ to 120€ ($46–$174). On certain nights this is the hottest party atmosphere in Paris, and Mondays are increasingly gay, although sexual preference is hardly an issue at this club. "We all walk the waterfront," one DJ enigmatically told us. Open Wednesday to Sunday 11pm to 6am. 7 rue du Bourg-l'Abbé, 3e. ✆ **01-48-87-01-80.** www.lesbains douches.net. Cover 10€–20€ ($15–$29). Métro: Etienne Marcel.

3 Bars, Pubs & Clubs

WINE BARS

Many Parisians now prefer wine bars to traditional cafes or bistros. The food is often better, and the ambience more inviting. For cafes, see section 4, "The Top Cafes," in chapter 3.

Au Sauvignon This tiny spot has tables overflowing onto a covered terrace and a decor that features old ceramic tiles and frescoes done by Left Bank artists. Wines range from the cheapest Beaujolais to the most expensive Puligny-Montrachet. A glass of wine costs 4.50€ to 6€ ($6.50–$8.70). To go with your wine, choose an Auvergne specialty, such as goat cheese or a terrine. Fresh Poilâne bread is ideal with ham, pâté, or goat cheese. Open Monday to Saturday 8am to 10pm, Sunday 10am to 9pm. Closed in August. 80 rue des Sts-Pères, 7e. ✆ **01-45-48-49-02.** Métro: Sèvres-Babylone or Saint Sulpice.

La Tartine Mirrors, brass details, and frosted-globe chandeliers make La Tartine look like a movie set of old Paris. At least 60 wines are offered at reasonable prices, including seven kinds of beaujolais and a large selection of bordeaux by the glass. Glasses of wine cost 3.50€ to 6€ ($5.10–$8.70), and the *charcuterie* platter costs 9€ to 15€ ($13–$22). We recommend the light Sancerre wine and goat cheese from the Loire Valley. Open daily 8am to 2am. 24 rue de Rivoli, 4e. ✆ **01-42-72-76-85.** Métro: St-Paul.

Le Sancerre Engagingly old-fashioned, with an agreeable staff and food prepared fresh every day, this wine bar specializes in vintages from the Loire Valley and Sancerre. The latter, produced in red, rosé, and white, is known for its not-too-dry fruity aroma. Other wine choices include chinon and saumur wine (both from the Loire Valley), as well as pinot de Bourgogne (from Burgundy), gamay (from the Ardèche Valley in France's southwest), and chenas (from the Beaujolais). Food items usually include *andouillettes* (chitterling sausages), omelets with flap mushrooms, fresh oysters, and quiches. Glasses of wine cost 3.10€ to 5.20€ ($4.50–$7.55); simple dishes cost 8.50€ to 14€ ($12–$20) each. Open Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm and 6:30 to 11pm; Saturday 8:30am to 4pm. 22 av. Rapp, 7e. ✆ **01-45-51-75-91.** Métro: Alma-Marceau.

Willi's Wine Bar ★★ Journalists and stockbrokers head for this popular wine bar in the financial district. It offers about 300 kinds of wine, including a dozen specials you can taste by the glass for 3€ to 18€ ($4.35–$26). Lunch is the busiest time; on quiet evenings, you can better enjoy the warm ambience. Daily specials are likely to include lamb brochette with cumin or Lyonnais sausage in truffled vinaigrette, plus a spectacular dessert such as chocolate terrine. A fixed-price menu costs 19€ to 25€ ($28–$36) at lunch, 34€ ($49) at dinner. The restaurant is open Monday to Saturday noon to 2:30pm and 7 to 11pm; the bar, Monday to Saturday noon to midnight. 13 rue des Petits-Champs, 1er. ✆ **01-42-61-05-09.** www.williswinebar.com. Métro: Bourse, Pyramides, or Palais-Royal.

BARS, PUBS & CLUBS

Académie de la Bière *Value* The decor is paneled and rustic, an appropriate foil for an "academy" whose curriculum includes more than 153 kinds of beer from microbreweries. More than half of the dozen beers on tap are from small-scale breweries in Belgium that deserve to be better known than that country's bestseller, Stella

Artois. Snack-style food is available, including platters of mussels, assorted cheeses, and sausages with mustard. Open Sunday to Thursday 10am to 2am and Friday and Saturday noon to 3am. 88 bis bd. du Port-Royal, 5e. ✆ **01-43-54-66-65.** RER: Port Royal.

Andy Whaloo A play on Andy Warhol's name, this bar would be at home in Marrakesh, the most chic city today in North Africa. Enjoy tapas Mediterranean or smoke a hookah. The background music might be raï from old Algiers. Patterned Moroccan rugs are thrown over banquettes, which fill up nightly with some of the most fashionable young people of Paris. The stools are made from paint barrels. The ambience is definitely of the *souk.* Open Tuesday to Sunday noon to 2am. 69 rue des Gravilliers, 3er. ✆ **01-42-74-03-41.** Métro: Arts et Métiers.

Barrio Latino This multilevel emporium of good times, Gallic flair, and Latin charm occupies a space designed by Gustav Eiffel in the 19th century. Tapas bars and dance floors are on the street level *(rez-de-chaussée)* and third floor *(3eme étage);* a Latin restaurant is on the second floor *(2eme étage).* Staff members roll carts loaded with tapas around the floors, selling them like hot dogs at an American baseball game. The restaurant specializes in food that French palates find refreshing: Argentine steaks, Brazilian *feijoada* (a bean-based dish that's similar to cassoulet), and Mexican chili, all of which taste wonderful with beer, caipirinhas, cuba libres, or rum punches. The clientele is mixed, mostly straight, partly gay, and 100% blasé about matters such as an individual's sexuality. Open Thursday through Saturday from 9pm. 46 rue du Faubourg St-Antoine, 12e. ✆ **01-55-78-84-75.** Cover 20€ ($29) for nondiners. Métro: Bastille.

Le Forum Patrons, who include frequent business travelers, compare this place with a private club in London. The comparison is due partly to the polished oak paneling and ornate stucco, and partly to the selection of single-malt whiskeys. You can also try 180 cocktails, including many that haven't been popular since the Jazz Age. Champagne by the glass is common, as is that social lubricant, the martini. Open Monday to Friday noon to 2am; Saturday 5:30pm to 2am. 4 bd. Malesherbes, 8e. ✆ **01-42-65-37-86.** www.bar-le-forum.com. Métro: Madeleine.

Le Fumoir At Le Fumoir, the well-traveled crowd that lives or works in the district provides a kind of classy raucousness. The decor is a lot like that of an English library, with about 6,000 books providing a backdrop to the schmoozing. A Swedish chef prepares an international menu featuring meal-size salads (the one with scallops and lobster is great), roasted codfish with zucchini, and roasted beef

in red-wine sauce. Open daily 11am to 2am. 6 rue de l'Amiral-de-Coligny, 1er. ✆ **01-42-92-00-24.** www.lefumoir.com. Métro: Louvre-Rivoli.

Mojito Habana Amid a decor that evokes colonial Havana under Batista, with lots of green upholsteries, wood panels, and deep sofas, you'll find a three-tiered place with a restaurant (it charges around 50€/$73 for a full meal); a piano bar (music begins at 10pm on Tues and 11pm every night the place is open); and a cigar lounge. Jazz concerts are featured on Tuesday nights. Cocktails, including cuba libres, cost 13€ ($19) each. Entrance is always free. It's open Monday to Saturday from noon to 5am. 19 rue de Presbourg, 16e. ✆ **01-45-00-84-84.** Métro: Etoile.

4 Gay & Lesbian Bars & Clubs

Gay life is centered on **Les Halles** and **Le Marais,** with the greatest concentration of gay and lesbian clubs, restaurants, bars, and shops between the Hôtel de Ville and Rambuteau Métro stops. Gay dance clubs come and go so fast that even the magazines devoted to them, such as ***Illico***—distributed free in the gay bars and bookstores—have a hard time keeping up. For lesbians, there is *Lesbian Magazine.* Also look for Gai Pied's ***Guide Gai*** and ***Pariscope***'s regularly featured English-language section, "A Week of Gay Outings." Also important for both men and women is ***Têtu Magazine,*** sold at most newsstands.

Café Cox, 15 rue des Archives, 4e (✆ **01-42-72-08-00**), gets so busy in the early evening that the crowd stands on the sidewalk. This is where you'll find the most mixed gay crowd in Paris—from hunky American tourists to sexy Parisian men. Another hot place in Les Halles is **Le Tropic Café,** 66 rue des Lombards, 1er (✆ **01-40-13-92-62;** Métro: Châtelet–Les Halles), where the trendy, good-looking crowd parties until dawn. A restaurant with a bar popular with women is **Okawa,** 40 rue Vieille-du-Temple, 4e (✆ **01-48-04-30-69;** Métro: Hôtel de Ville), where trendy lesbians (and some gay men) enjoy happy hour.

Banana Café Occupying two floors of a 19th-century building, this popular bar has walls the color of an overripe banana, dim lighting, and a policy of raising the drink prices after 10pm, when things become really interesting. There's a street-level bar and a cellar dance floor that features a live pianist and recorded music—sometimes with dancing. On many nights, go-go dancers perform from spotlit platforms in the cellar. Open daily from 5:30pm to 4 or 5am. 13 rue de la Ferronnerie, 1er. ✆ **01-42-33-35-31.** www.bananacafeparis.com. Métro: Châtelet–Les Halles.

La Champmeslé With dim lighting, background music, and comfortable banquettes, La Champmeslé offers a cozy meeting place for women and a few (about 5%) "well-behaved" men. Paris's leading women's bar is in a 300-year-old building with exposed stone, ceiling beams, and 1950s-style furnishings. Thursday night, one of the premier lesbian events in Paris, a cabaret begins at 10pm. Open daily 4pm until dawn. 4 rue Chabanais, 2e. ✆ **01-42-96-85-20.** Métro: Pyramides or Bourse.

Le Depot This gay pleasure palace stages everything from Queer Mother Nights to Putanas at Work. Patrons wander the rooms downstairs searching for their companion of the night. The pickup area and best cruising grounds are in the section where porno flicks are being shown on television sets mounted on the walls. The many backrooms allow you to get better acquainted with your catch of the evening. After 11pm, lesbians patronize the upstairs dance floor. The age range here is from 18 to 50. The post-Sunday-brunch gay tea dance, starting at 5pm, is one of the happening events of Paris. Open daily from 2pm to 8am. 10 rue aux Ours, 3e. ✆ **01-44-54-96-96.** Cover 7.50€–12€ ($11–$17) Métro: Etienne-Marcel.

Le Queen Should you miss gay life à la New York, seek out the flashing purple sign near the corner of avenue George V. This place is often mobbed, primarily by gay men and, to a lesser degree, chic women who work in fashion and film. Look for drag shows, muscle shows, striptease by danseurs atop the bars, and everything from '70s-style disco nights to foam parties (only in summer), when cascades of suds descend onto the dance floor. Go very, very late: The place opens at midnight and stays open until 6 or 7am. 102 av. des Champs-Elysées, 8e. ✆ **01-53-89-08-90.** www.queen.fr. Cover 15€–20€ ($22–$29) Fri–Sat. Métro: Franklin-D-Roosevelt or George V.

Appendix: Paris Fast Facts

American Express The office at 11 rue Scribe, 9e (✆ **01-47-77-79-28**) is open as a travel agency, a tour operator, and a mail pickup service every Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 6:30pm, Saturday 9am to 5:30pm. Its banking section can fill most needs and, for issues involving American Express credit cards, transfers of funds, and credit-related issues, it's open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 6:30pm.

ATM Networks See "Money & Costs," p. 8.

Babysitters The best deal comes from **Babychou** Services, 31 rue Moulin de la Pointe, 13e (✆ **01-43-13-33-23;** fax 01-43-13-33-20). You pay 16€ ($23) for the booking, plus 8€ ($12) per hour for one kid, 9€ ($13) per hour for two kids, and 10€ ($15) for three.

Business Hours Opening hours in France are erratic, as befits a nation of individualists. Most museums close 1 day a week (often Tues) and national holidays; hours tend to be from 9:30am to 5pm. Some museums, particularly the smaller ones, close for lunch from noon to 2pm. Most museums are open Saturday, but many close Sunday morning and reopen in the afternoon. Generally, **offices** are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm, but don't count on it—always call first. **Large stores** are open from 9 or 9:30am (often 10am) to 6 or 7pm without a break for lunch. Some **shops,** particularly those operated by non-native French owners, open at 8am and close at 8 or 9pm. In some **small stores,** the lunch break can last 3 hours, beginning at 1pm.

Drugstores After regular hours, have your concierge contact the Commissariat de Police for the nearest 24-hour pharmacy. French law requires one pharmacy in any given neighborhood to stay open 24 hours. You'll find the address posted on the doors or windows of all other drugstores. One of the most central all-nighters is **Pharmacy Les Champs "Derhy,"** 84 av. des Champs-Elysées, 8e (✆ **01-45-62-02-41;** Métro: George V).

Electricity In general, expect 200 volts AC (60 cycles), though you'll encounter 110 and 115 volts in some older establishments. Adapters are needed to fit sockets. Many hotels have two-pin (in some cases, three-pin) sockets for electric razors.

Embassies & Consulates If you have a passport, immigration, legal, or other problem, contact your consulate. Call before you go—they often keep odd hours and observe both French and home-country holidays. The Embassy of the **United States,** 2 av. Gabriel, 8e (✆ **01-43-12-22-22;** Métro: Concorde), is open Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm. The Embassy of **Canada** is at 35 av. Montaigne, 8e (✆ **01-44-43-29-00;** Métro: F-D-Roosevelt or Alma-Marceau), open Monday to Friday 9am to noon and 2 to 5pm. The Embassy of the **United Kingdom** is at 35 rue du Faubourg St-Honoré, 8e (✆ **01-44-51-31-00;** Métro: Concorde or Madeleine), open Monday to Friday 9:30am to 1pm and 2:30 to 5pm. The Embassy of **Ireland** is at 4 rue Rude, 75116 Paris (✆ **01-44-17-67-00;** Métro: Etoile), open Monday to Friday 9:30am to 1pm and 2:30 to 5:30pm. The Embassy of **Australia** is at 4 rue Jean-Rey, 15e (✆ **01-40-59-33-00;** Métro: Bir Hakeim), open Monday to Friday 9:15am to noon and 2:30 to 4:30pm. The embassy of **New Zealand** is at 7 ter rue Léonard-de-Vinci, 16e (✆ **01-45-01-43-43;** Métro: Victor Hugo), open Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm and 2:30 to 6pm. The embassy of **South Africa,** at 59 quai d'Orsay, 7e (✆ **01-53-59-23-89;** Métro: Invalides), is open Monday to Friday 9am to noon.

Emergencies For the police, call ✆ **17;** to report a fire, call ✆ **18.** For an ambulance, call ✆ **15** or 01-45-67-50-50.

Holidays Major holidays are January 1 (New Year's Day), Easter, Ascension Day (40 days after Easter), Pentecost (seventh Sunday after Easter), May 1 (May Day), May 8 (VE Day), July 14 (Bastille Day), August 15 (Assumption of the Virgin Mary), November 1 (All Saints Day), November 11 (Armistice Day), and December 25 (Christmas).

Hospitals Open Monday to Saturday from 8am to 7pm, **Central Médical Europe,** 44 rue d'Amsterdam, 9e (✆ **01-42-81-93-33;** Métro: Liège or St-Lazare), maintains contacts with medical and dental practitioners in all fields. Appointments are recommended. Another choice is the **American Hospital of Paris,** 63 bd. Victor-Hugo, Neuilly, 17e (✆ **01-46-41-25-25;** Métro: Pont de Levallois or Pont de Neuilly; Bus: 82), which operates 24-hour medical and dental services. An additional clinic is the **Centre Figuier,** 2 rue du Figuier, 4e (✆ **01-49-96-62-70;** Métro: St-Paul). Call before visiting.

Hotlines S.O.S. Help is available at ✆ **01-46-21-46-46.** The 24-hr. Pharmacy Hotline is ✆ **01-45-62-02-41.** S.O.S. Dentaire is ✆ **01-43-37-51-00.**

Legal Aid In an emergency, especially if you get into trouble with the law, your country's embassy or consulate will provide legal advice. See the previous "Embassies & Consulates."

Liquor Laws Supermarkets, grocery stores, and cafes sell alcoholic beverages. The legal drinking age is 16, but persons under that age can be served alcohol in a bar or restaurant if accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Wine and liquor are sold every day of the week, year-round. Hours of cafes vary. Some open at 6am, serving drinks to 3am; others are open 24 hours. Bars and nightclubs may stay open as late as they wish. The Breathalyzer test is used in France, and a motorist is considered "legally intoxicated" with .5 grams of alcohol per liter of blood (the more liberal U.S. law varies among states, with many states in the range of .6 to .8g per liter). If convicted, a motorist faces a stiff fine and a possible prison term of 2 months to 2 years. If bodily injury results, sentences can range from 2 years to life.

Lost & Found To speed the process of replacing your personal documents if they're lost or stolen, make a photocopy of the first few pages of your passport and write down your credit card numbers (and the serial numbers of your traveler's checks, if you're using them). Leave this information with someone at home—to be faxed to you in an emergency—and swap it with your traveling companion. Be sure to tell all your credit card companies the minute you discover your wallet has been lost or stolen, and file a report at the nearest police precinct. Your credit card company or insurer may require a police report number or record of the loss.

Use the following numbers in France to report your lost or stolen credit card: **American Express** (call collect) ✆ **336/393-1111; MasterCard** ✆ **08-00-90-13-87,** www.mastercard.com; **Visa** ✆ **08-00-90-11-79,** www.visaeurope.com. Your credit card company may be able to wire you a cash advance immediately or deliver an emergency card in a day or two.

If you need emergency cash over the weekend when all banks and American Express offices are closed, you can have money wired to you via **Western Union** (✆ **800/325-6000;** www.westernunion.com). **Travelers Express/MoneyGram** is the largest company in the U.S. for money orders. You can transfer funds either online or by phone in about 10 minutes (✆ **800/MONEYGRAM;** www.moneygram.com).

Identity theft and fraud are potential complications of losing your wallet, especially if you lose your driver's license with your cash and credit cards. Notify the major credit-reporting bureaus immediately; placing a fraud alert on your records may protect you against liability for criminal activity. The three major U.S. credit-reporting agencies are **Equifax** (✆ **800/766-0008;** www.equifax.com), **Experian** (✆ **888/397-3742;** www.experian.com), and **TransUnion** (✆ **800/680-7289;** www.transunion.com).

Mail Most post offices in Paris are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 7pm and every Saturday from 8am to noon. One of the biggest and most central of them is the main post office for the 1st arrondissement, at 52 rue du Louvre (✆ **01-40-28-76-00;** Métro: Musée du Louvre). It maintains the hours noted above for services including the sale of postal money orders, mail collection and distribution, and the expedition of faxes. For the purposes of selling stamps and accepting packages, it's open on a limited basis 24 hours a day. Stamps are also sold at the reception desks of many hotels and at cafes designated with red TABAC signs.

Passports Allow plenty of time before your trip to apply for a passport; processing normally takes 3 weeks but can take longer during busy periods (especially spring). Keep in mind that if you need a passport in a hurry, you'll pay a higher processing fee.

For Residents of the United States: Whether you're applying in person or by mail, you can download passport applications from the U.S. State Department website at http://travel.state.gov. To find your regional passport office, either check the U.S. State Department website or call the toll-free number of the **National Passport Information Center** (✆ **877/487-2778**) for automated information.

For Residents of Canada: Passport applications are available at travel agencies throughout Canada or from the central **Passport Office,** Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ottawa, ON K1A 0G3 (✆ **800/567-6868;** www.ppt.gc.ca).

For Residents of Ireland: You can apply for a 10-year passport at the **Passport Office,** Setanta Centre, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2 (✆ **01/671-1633;** www.irlgov.ie/iveagh). Those younger than 18 and older than 65 must apply for a 12€ 3-year passport. You can also apply at 1A South Mall, Cork (✆ **021/494-4700**) or at most main post offices.

For Residents of Australia: You can pick up an application from your local post office or any branch of Passports Australia, but you must schedule an interview at the passport office to present your

application materials. Call the **Australian Passport Information Service** at ✆ **131-232** or visit the government website at **www.smarttraveler.gov.au**.

For Residents of New Zealand: You can pick up a passport application at any New Zealand Passports Office or download it from their website. Contact the **Passports Office** at ✆ **0800/225-050** in New Zealand or 04/474-8100, or log on to **www.passports.govt.nz**.

Police In an emergency, call ✆ **17.** For nonemergency situations, the principal préfecture is at 9 bd. du Palais, 4e (✆ **01-53-73-53-73;** Métro: Cité).

Smoking Smoking is no longer acceptable in restaurants and cafes, museums, or other public areas.

Taxes As a member of the European Union, France routinely imposes a value-added tax (VAT in English; TVA in French) on many goods and services. The standard VAT is 19.6% on merchandise, including clothing, appliances, liquor, leather goods, shoes, furs, jewelry, perfumes, cameras, and even caviar. Refunds are made for the tax on certain goods and merchandise, but not on services. The minimum purchase is 175€ ($254) at one time for nationals or residents of countries outside the EU. Hotel taxes in Paris range from around .70€ ($1) to around 1.50€ ($2.20; Ritz rate) per person per day.

Telephones Public phones are found everywhere in France. The most widely accepted method of payment is the ***télécarte,*** a prepaid calling card available at kiosks, post offices, and Métro stations and cost 11€ to 16€ ($16–$23) for 50 and 120 units, respectively. A local call costs one unit, which provides you 6 to 18 minutes of conversation, depending on the rate. Avoid making calls from your hotel, which may double or triple the charges.

To call **long distance within France,** dial the 10-digit number (9-digits in some cases outside Paris) of the person or place you're calling. To reach the long-distance operator for AT&T, the Direct Access Number is ✆ **0800-99-0011** or 0805-701-288; for Canada, dial ✆ **0800-99-00-16** or 0800-99-02-16.

If you have a **phonecard,** you can recharge it anywhere, anytime, with **eKit,** via the Web. You can recharge over the phone using a self-service recharge menu. If you prefer to speak to someone, you can call eKit's 24-hour Customer Service: ✆ **888/310-4168** in the U.S., ✆ 0800-028-2402 in Britain, ✆ 800/094-747 in Australia, and ✆ 866/626-9724 in Canada. With eKit, you can save up to 70% on calls in 200 countries worldwide, including France.

To call Paris:

1. Dial the international access code: 011 from the U.S.; 00 from the U.K., Ireland, or New Zealand; or 0011 from Australia.
2. Dial the country code 33.
3. Dial the city code 1 and then the number.

To make international calls: To make international calls from Paris, first dial 00 and then the country code (U.S. or Canada 1, U.K. 44, Ireland 353, Australia 61, New Zealand 64). Next you dial the area code and number. For example, if you wanted to call the British Embassy in Washington, D.C., you would dial ✆ 00-1-202-588-7800.

For directory assistance: For numbers inside and outside France, dial ✆ **118-008.**

For operator assistance: Local operators within France are less and less widespread. Even if you dial "0," depending on where you are within France, it might not get you a live body. Everyone automatically expects, according to the director of phone services in Paris, that dialers know the codes of the countries or regions they're trying to reach.

As for reaching an operator for the **placement of calls outside of France,** the system involves bypassing French operators, and relying on the operators based in the country you're trying to call. The prefix for accessing a foreign (specifically, non-French) operator involves dialing the access codes **0800-99-00** followed by the **country code.**

Toll-free numbers: Numbers beginning with **0800** within France are toll-free, but calling a 1-800 number in the States from France costs the same as an overseas call.

Tipping By law, all bills show *service compris,* which means the tip is included; additional gratuities are customarily given as follows: For **hotel staff,** tip the porter 1.05€ to 1.50€ ($1.50–$2.20) per item of baggage and 1.50€ ($2.20) per day for the chambermaid. You're not obligated to tip the concierge, doorman, or anyone else unless you use his or her services. In **cafes** and **restaurants,** waiter service is usually included, though you can leave some small change, if you like. Tip **taxi drivers** 12% to 15% of the amount on the meter. In **theaters** and **restaurants,** give cloakroom attendants at least .75€ ($1.10) per item. Give **restroom attendants** in nightclubs and such places about .30€ (45¢). Tip the **hairdresser** about 15%, and don't forget to tip the person who gives you a shampoo or a manicure 1.50€ ($2.20). For **guides** of group visits to museums and monuments, .75€ to 1.50€ ($1.10–$2.20) is a reasonable tip.

Index

See also Accommodations and Restaurant indexes below.

General Index

Académie de la Bière, 165–166
Accommodations, 28–54. ***See also*** **Accommodations Index;** ***and specific arrondissements***
  Left Bank, 43–54
  Right Bank, 28–43
  tipping, 174
Addresses, finding, 23
Aer Lingus, 13
Air France, 13
Air France buses, 24
Air travel, 13, 23–25
Alain Figaret, 147
American Airlines Vacations, 11–12
American Express, 11, 169, 171
American Hospital of Paris, 170
Andy Whaloo, 166
Anna Lowe, 148–149
Annexe des Créateurs, 149
Antiques, 141–142
Arc de Triomphe, 94–95
Arrondissements, 16–22
  brief descriptions of, 16–22
  sights and attractions, 129–134
  2nd (La Bourse), 16
    accommodations, 33
    restaurants, 63–64
  3rd (Le Marais), 16–17
    accommodations, 33–35
    restaurants, 64–66
    shopping, 140–141
  1st (Musée du Louvre/Les Halles), 16
    accommodations, 28–33
    restaurants, 58–59, 62–63
    shopping, 140
  4th (Ile de la Cité/Ile St-Louis & Beaubourg), 17
    accommodations, 35–37
    restaurants, 66–67
    shopping, 140–141
  5th (Latin Quarter), 17–18
    accommodations, 43, 46–47
    restaurants, 79–83
  6th (St-Germain/Luxembourg), 18
    accommodations, 47–50
    restaurants, 83–87
    shopping, 141
  7th (Eiffel Tower/Musée d'Orsay), 18
    accommodations, 50, 52–54
    restaurants, 87–89
    shopping, 141
  8th (Champs-Elysées/Madeleine), 18–19, 39–42
    restaurants, 73–78
    shopping, 140
  9th (Opera Garnier/Pigalle), 19, 67–69
    shopping, 141
  10th (Gare du Nord/Gare de l'Est), 19
    restaurants, 69–70
  11th (Opéra Bastille), 19–20, 37–38
    restaurants, 70–71
  12th (Bois de Vincennes/Gare de Lyon), 20
    accommodations, 38
    restaurants, 71–72
  13th (Gare d'Austerlitz), 20
  14th (Montparnasse), 20–21
  15th (Gare Montparnasse), 21
  16th (Trocadéro/Bois de Boulogne), 21
    accommodations, 42–43
    restaurants, 78–79
  17th (Parc Monceau/Place Clichy), 21
  18th (Montmartre), 21–22
    accommodations, 39
    restaurants, 72–73
  19th (La Villette), 22
  20th (Père-Lachaise Cemetery), 22
Art galleries, 142, 143
ATMs (automated teller machines), 9
Au Bon Marché, 145
Audio Visit, 136
Au Nain Bleu, 144
Au Printemps, 145
Au Sauvignon, 164–165
Australia
  customs regulations, 7
  embassy, 170
  passports, 172–173

Babysitters, 169
Baccarat, 144
Balabus, 27, 135
Banana Café, 167
Barrio Latino, 166
Bars and pubs, 164–167
Basilique du Sacré-Coeur, 95, 98
Basilique St-Denis, 118–119
Bateaux-Mouche, 135–136
Batofar, 162–163
BCBG/Max Azria, 146
Bibliothèque Information Publique, 110
Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Site Tolbiac/François Mitterrand, 120–121
Bijoux Blues, 150
Bijoux Burma, 150
Bonpoint, 144
Bookstores, 142–143
Brentano's, 142
British Airways, 13
British Midland, 13
Business hours, 169
Bus Palladium, 160
Bus travel, 14, 25, 27

Cab, 163
Café Cox, 167
Cafes, 89–93
Canada
customs regulations, 6
embassy, 170
passports, 172
Carrousel du Louvre, 151
Car travel, 14, 25–26
Cassegrain, 153
Catacombs (Les Catacombes), 128
Cathédrale de Notre-Dame, 98–100
Catherine, 152
Caveau de la Huchette, 160
Caveau des Oubliettes, 160–161
Cemeteries, 125–128
Center for Industrial Design, 110
Central Médical Europe, 170
Centre de Création Industriel, 110
Centre Figuier, 170
Centre Pompidou, 110
Chanel, 147
Chapelle de la Madone, 120
Chapelle des Anges, 120
Chez Michou, 158
Christian Constant, 149–150
Christian Dior, 147
Cimetière de Montmartre, 125–126
Cimetière du Père-Lachaise, 126–128
Cité de la Musique, 155–156
Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine, 112
Cityrama, 134–135
Comédie-Française, 155
Comédie Française-Théâtre du Vieux-Colombier, 155
Conciergerie, 121–122
Context:Paris, 136–137
Continental Airlines Vacations, 12
Courrèges, 146
Crazy Horse Saloon, 158
Credit cards, 10–11
Cruises on the Seine, 135–136
Currency, 8–9
Customs regulations, 5–7

Dance clubs, 162–164
Défilé des Marques, 149
Dehillerin, 150–151
Delacroix, Eugène, Musée National, 116
Delta Vacations, 12
Department stores, 145–146
Deportation Memorial (Mémorial des Martyrs Français de la Déportation de 1945), 100
The Different Company, 152
Dining, 55–93. *See also* Restaurants Index; *and specific arrondissements*
cafes, 89–93
Left Bank, 79–89
Right Bank, 58–79
tips on eating in, 56–57
types of, 55–58
Drugstores, 169

Editions de Parfums Fréderic Malle, 152–153
Eglise du Dôme, 102
Eiffel Tower, 108–109
Electricity, 170
Embassies and consulates, 170
Emergencies, 170

England
customs regulations, 6–7
embassy, 170
ferries from, 14–16
Entry requirements, 4–5
Escorted tours, 12–13
Eurolines France station, 25
***Eurostar Express,* 15**
Eurotunnel, 15

Families with children
documents needed, 5
fashion and toys, 144
Fashion, 146–149
Fauchon, 150
Favela Chic, 163
Ferries from England, 14–16
Flea markets, 151–152
FNAC, 152, 155
Folies-Bergère, 158
Food markets, 149
Food shops, 149–150
Forum des Halles, 133
Franceway, 12
French Government Tourist Office, 1

Galerie 27, 142
Galerie Adrien Maeght, 142
Galeries Lafayette, 145–146
Gare d'Austerlitz, 25
Gare de l'Est, 25
Gare de Lyon, 25
Gare du Nord, 25
Gare Montparnasse, 25
Gare St-Lazare, 25
Gays and lesbians, 17
bars and clubs, 167–168
Geneviève Lethu, 153
Gifts and souvenirs, 153
Givenchy, 147–148
Givenchy Hommes, 148
Global Refund, 140
Globus + Cosmos Tours, 12
Grande Arche de La Défense, 123

Hermès, 148
Holidays, 170
Hospitals, 170
Hôtel de Lauzun, 132
Hôtel des Invalides/Napoleon's Tomb, 101
Hôtel de Ville, 122–123
Hôtel Dieu, 130
Hôtel Lambert, 132–133
Hotels, 28–54. ***See also* Accommodations Index;** ***and specific arrondissements***
Left Bank, 43–54
Right Bank, 28–43
tipping, 174
Hotlines, 171

Ile de la Cité, 129–132
Ile St-Louis, 132
Institut de Recherche et de Coordination Acoustique-Musique, 110–111
Ireland
embassy, 170
passports, 172

Jardin des Tuileries, 124
Jardin du Luxembourg, 124–125
Jazz clubs, 160–162
Jeu de Paume, 111–112
Jewelry, 150

Keith Prowse, 155
Kilomètre Zéro, 98
Kiosque Théâtre, 154
Kitchenware, 150–151

La Balajo, 163
La Champmeslé, 168
La Chapelle des Lombards, 161
La Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine, 112
La Grande Arche de La Défense, 123
Lalique, 144
La Tartine, 165
La Tuile à Loup, 153
Lavinia, 153
Layout of Paris, 22–23
Le Baron, 164
Le Depot, 168
Le Forum, 166

Left Bank, 22
accommodations, 43–54
restaurants, 79–89
sights and attractions, 134
Le Fumoir, 166–167
Legal aid, 171
Le Gibus, 161
Le Louvre des Antiquaires, 141
Le Musée du quai Branly, 112–113
Leonardo da Vinci, 106
Le Paradis Latin, 159
Le Petit Journal Montparnasse, 161
Le Queen, 168
Le Sancerre, 165
Les Bains Douches, 164
Les Catacombes, 128
Les Egouts, 128–129
Les Etoiles, 162
Les Halles, 133
Les Trois Quartiers, 151
Le Tropic Café, 167
Lido de Paris, 159
Limoges-Unic/Madronet, 143
Liquor laws, 171
Lost and found, 171
Louis Vuitton, 148
Louvre, Musée du, 104

Mail, 172
Manet, Edouard, 103, 115
Manufacture Nationale de Sèvres, 143
Maps, 4, 23
Marché aux Fleurs, 151
Marché aux Oiseaux, 151
Marché aux Puces de la Porte de Vanves, 151
Marché aux Puces St-Ouen de Clignancourt, 151–152
Markets, 151–152
food, 149
MasterCard, 171
Mémorial des Martyrs Français de la Déportation de 1945 (Deportation Memorial), 100
Métro (subway), 26
Mojito Habana, 167
***Mona Lisa,* 106**
Monet, Claude, 113
Musée Marmottan-Claude Monet, 114–115
Money and costs, 8–11
Moulin Rouge, 159
Mur des Fédérés, 126, 128
Musée Baccarat, 144
Musée Carnavalet, 130
Musée de Cluny (Musée National du Moyen Age/Thermes de Cluny), 115–116
Musée de l'Armée, 101
Musée de l'Orangerie, 113
Musée des Plans-Reliefs, 102
Musée d'Orsay, 103
Musée du Louvre, 104–107
Musée du quai Branly, 112–113
Musée Jacquemart-André, 114
Musée Marmottan-Claude Monet, 114–115
Musée National d'Art Moderne, 110–111
Musée National du Moyen Age/ Thermes de Cluny (Musée de Cluny), 115–116
Musée National Eugène Delacroix, 116
Musée Picasso, 116–117
Musée Rodin, 117–118

Napoleon's Tomb, 101, 102
National Museum of Modern Art, 110–111
Neighborhoods. *See* Arrondissements
New Zealand
customs regulations, 7
embassy, 170
passports, 173
Nightlife, 154–168
bars and pubs, 164–167
club and music scene, 157–164
current listings, 154
performing arts, 154–157
North rose window (Notre-Dame), 100
Notre-Dame, Cathédrale de, 98–100
Nouveau Casino, 159–160
***Nuit Blanche,* 156**

Okawa, 167
Olympia, 157
Opéra Bastille, 156–157
Opéra Garnier, 157
Orly Airport, 23, 24

Package tours, 11–12
Palais des Tuileries, 124
P&O Ferries, 16
Panthéon, 123–124
Paris Airport Shuttle, 25
Paris Art Market, 143
Paris Convention and Visitors Bureau, 4
Paris Museum Pass, 111
Parks and gardens, 124–125
Parthenon frieze, 107
Passports, 4–5, 172–173
Pharmacy Les Champs "Derhy," 169
Picasso, Pablo, 113
  Musée Picasso, 116–117
Poilâne, 150
Pont Neuf, 130
Portal of St. Anne, 100
Portal of St. Stephen, 100
Portal of the Cloisters, 100
Portal of the Last Judgment, 99
Portal of the Virgin, 99
Public Information Library, 110

Rail Europe, 15
Renoir, 113
RER trains, 26–27
Restaurants, 55–93. ***See also*** **Restaurant Index;** ***and specific arrondissements***
  cafes, 89–93
  Left Bank, 79–89
  Right Bank, 58–79
  tips on eating in, 56–57
  types of, 55–58
Right Bank, 22
  accommodations, 28–43
  restaurants, 58–79
  sights and attractions, 133–134
Rodin, Auguste, Musée Rodin, 117–118
Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport, 23–24
Roman baths, 116
Rue du Faubourg St-Honoré, 146–147

Sacré-Coeur, Basilique du, 95, 98
St-Denis, Basilique, 118–119
Sainte-Chapelle, 107–108
St-Etienne-du-Mont, 119
St-Germain-des-Prés, 134
St-Germain l'Auxerrois, 119–120
St-Louis-en-l'Ile, 133
St-Sulpice, 120, 134
Seasons, 7–8
7 Lézards, 162
Shakespeare and Company, 142–143
Shopping, 138–153
  best buys, 138
  neighborhoods, 140–141
Sights and attractions, 94–137
Slow Club, 162
Smoking, 173
South Africa, embassy, 170
Square du Vert Galant, 130, 132
Subway (Métro), 26

Tauck World Discovery, 12–13
Taxes, 173
Taxis, airport, 24
Telephones, 173–174
Theater, 155
Tipping, 174
Tour d'Argent, 121
Tour de César, 121
Tour Eiffel, 108–109
Tours
  escorted, 12–13
  organized, 134–137
  package, 11–12
Trafalgar, 12
Trailfinders, 13
Train travel, 14, 15, 25
Transportation, 25–27
Traveler's checks, 11
Travelers Express/MoneyGram, 171

United Kingdom
  customs regulations, 6–7
  embassy, 170
  ferries from, 14–16
United States
  customs regulations, 5–6
  embassy, 170
  passports, 172
United Vacations, 12

VAT (value-added tax), 173
  refund, 139–140
Village St-Paul, 141–142
Visa, 171
Visitor information, 1, 4

Websites, 4
Western Union, 171
West rose window (Notre-Dame), 99–100
W. H. Smith France, 143
Willi's Wine Bar, 165
Wine bars, 164–165
Wines, 153

Accommodations

Au Palais de Chaillot Hôtel, 43
Bourgogne & Montana, 50
Derby Eiffel, 52–53
Familia-Hôtel, 46
The Five Hotel, 43
Four Seasons Hotel George V, 39–40
Galileo Hotel, 40–41
Golden Tulip Opéra de Noailles, 33
Grand Hôtel des Balcons, 49–50
Grand Hôtel Doré, 38
Grand Hôtel Saint-Michel, 46
Hôtel à l'Eiffel Rive Gauche, 53
Hôtel Bel-Ami, 47–48
Hôtel Bellevue & du Chariot d'Or, 35
Hôtel Britannique, 29
Hôtel Burgundy, 28–29
Hôtel Croix de Malte, 37–38
Hôtel de Fleurie, 48
Hôtel de l'Académie, 52
Hôtel de la Place des Vosges, 37
Hôtel de l'Université, 52
Hôtel de Lutèce, 35
Hôtel de Nevers, 53
Hôtel des Deux Continents, 49
Hôtel des Deux-Iles, 35
Hôtel des Grandes Ecoles, 47
Hôtel des Jardins du Luxembourg, 46
Hôtel des Marronniers, 49
Hôtel du Bourg Tibourg, 36
Hôtel du Jeu de Paume, 36
Hôtel du Ministère, 41–42
Hôtel du Petit Moulin, 34
Hôtel du Quai Voltaire, 53–54
Hôtel du 7e Art, 37
Hôtel Le A, 40
Hôtel Le Sainte-Beuve, 48
Hôtel Moderne Saint-Germain, 47
Hôtel Pavillon Bastille, 38
Hôtel Queen Mary, 42
Hôtel Saint-Louis, 36–37
Hôtel Sofitel Trocadéro Dokhan's, 42–43
Hôtel Thérèse, 29, 32
Hôtel Verneuil, 52
Hôtel Victoires Opéra, 33
Kube Rooms & Bars, 39
Le Petit Châtelet, 32
Murano Urban Resort, 33–34
Odéon Hôtel, 49
Pavillon de la Reine, 34
Premium Hotel Montmartre, 39
Prince Albert, 32
Regent's Hôtel, 50
Résidence Alhambra, 38
Résidence Lord Byron, 42
Timhôtel Le Louvre, 32–33
Timhôtel Palais-Royal, 33
Westin Paris, 29

Restaurants

Alain Ducasse (Alain Ducasse), 73–74
Alcazar Restaurant, 84
Allard, 84
Altitude 95, 109
Angélina, 63
Au Bascou, 65
Au Petit Monsieur, 70
Au Petit Riche, 67–68
Au Pied de Cochon, 59, 62
Au Pied de Fouet, 88–89
Au Trou Gascon, 71–72
Aux Charpentiers, 86
Aux Lyonnais, 63–64
Bar des Théâtres, 77
Berthillon, 66
Bistrot Paul Bert, 70
Brasserie Balzar, 79–80
Brasserie Flo, 69
Breakfast in America, 83
Café Beaubourg, 91
Café de Flore, 90
Café de la Musique, 91
Café Panique, 69–70
Café Richelieu, 107
Carré des Feuillants, 58
Casa Olympe, 68
Chartier, 68–69
Chez André, 76
Chez Georges, 64

Chez Gramond, 85
Chez Jenny, 65
Chez l'Ami Jean, 89
Chez Savy, 78
Chez Vong, 59
Coco de Mer, 83
Crémerie-Restaurant Polidor, 86
Fouquet's, 90–91
Georges, 67
Goumard, 59
Hard Rock Cafe, 67
Joe Allen, 62
Kambodgia, 79
La Bastide Odéon, 87
La Butte Chaillot, 79
La Coupole, 91–92
Ladurée, 76
La Famille, 72
La Grille, 69
L'Ambassade d'Auvergne, 65–66
L'Ambroisie, 66
L'Angle du Faubourg, 74–75
La Palette, 92
La Petite Chaise, 88
La Poule au Pot, 62
La Rôtisserie d'en Face, 85
L'Arpège, 87
Lasserre, 73
L'Astrance, 78
L'Ebauchoir, 72
Le Chateaubriand, 71
Le Grain de Folie, 73
Le Grand Véfour, 58–59
Le Jules Verne, 109
Le Pamphlet, 64–65
Le Petit Pontoise, 81–82
Le Pré Verre, 82
Le Procope, 92
Les Deux Magots, 93
Les Gourmets des Ternes, 76–77
Le Vaudeville, 64
Le Violon d'Ingres, 87–88
Mansouria, 71
Market, 77
Marty, 82
Pinxo, 62–63
Restaurant du Musée d'Orsay, 88
Restaurant Plaza Athénée, 73
Sensing, 83–84
1728, 75
Spoon, Food & Wine, 75
Taillevent, 74
Wally Le Saharien, 68
Ze Kitchen Galerie, 85–86

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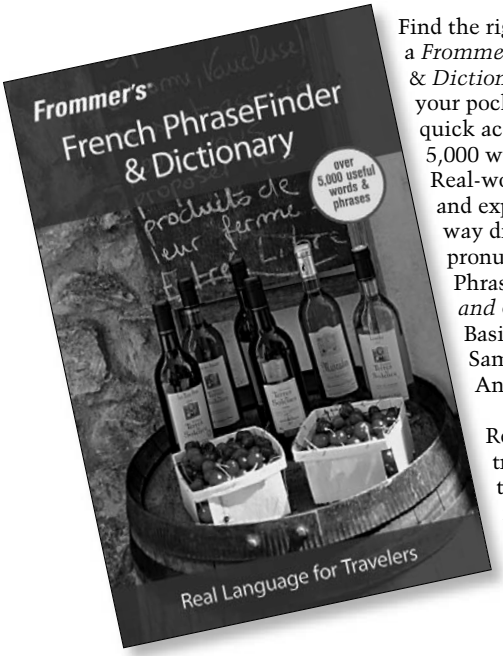

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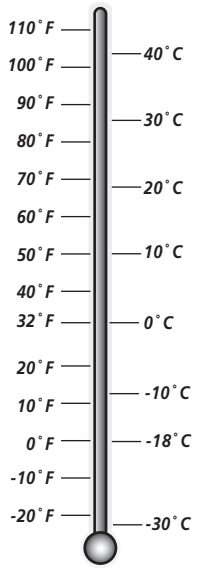

To convert F to C:
subtract 32 and multiply by $^{5}/_{9}$ (.555)

To convert C to F:
multiply by 1.8 and add 32

32˚F = 0˚C

DISTANCE

To convert	*multiply by*
inches to centimeters	*2.54*
centimeters to inches	*.39*
feet to meters	*.30*
meters to feet	*3.28*
yards to meters	*.91*
meters to yards	*1.09*
miles to kilometers	*1.61*
kilometers to miles	*.62*

1 mi = 1.6 km *1 km = .62 km*
1 ft = .30 m *1 m = 3.3 ft*

LIQUID VOLUME

To convert	*multiply by*
U.S. gallons to liters	*3.8*
Liters to U.S. gallons	*.26*
U.S. gallons to imperial gallons	*.83*
Imperial gallons to U.S. gallons	*1.20*
Imperial gallons to liters	*4.55*
Liters to imperial gallons	*.22*

1 liter = .26 U.S. gallon
1 U.S. gallon = 3.8 liter

WEIGHT

To convert	*multiply by*
Ounces to grams	*28.35*
Grams to ounces	*.035*
Pounds to kilograms	*.45*
Kilograms to pounds	*2.20*

1 ounce = 28 gr *1 gr = .04 ounce*
1 lb = .4555 kg *1 kg = 2.2 lb*

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